

Wednesday June 17 1998

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The Guardian

Printed in London, Manchester, Frankfurt and Roubaix

Scotland draws with Norway

Tartan Army breathes again

In the sports pages



Gary Younge

Racism in Europe

G2 with European weather



Environment

Fewer leaks in the pipeline

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Killing verdict stands ☐ Parents continue fight ☐ Bidding war likely despite warning

Woodward free - at a price

Joanna Coles in New York

LOUISE Woodward, the au pair convicted of killing a nine-month-old boy, is expected to return to Britain and a potential six-figure sum from the tabloid press this week, despite a judge's recommendation that she should not profit from her story.

By 4.30, the Supreme Court of Massachusetts yesterday upheld the trial judge's controversial decision to reduce her original second-degree murder conviction to the manslaughter of Matthew Eappen.

The boy's father Sunil said last night that he would launch a wrongful death suit against Woodward.

The seven judges also upheld Judge Zobel's decision to reduce her original 15-year sentence to the 279 days she had already served on remand.

But Justice Coleman, one of the dissenting judges, said Woodward should not be allowed to look after children again and should be prevented from profiting from her crime.

Britain's Press Complaints Commission said last night it was up to editors to decide if they should pay Woodward for her story after considering the industry's code of practice.

The code says that "payment or offers of payment for stories, pictures or information, must not be made directly or through agents to convicted or confessed criminals or to their associates — who may include family, friends and colleagues — except where the material concerned ought to be published in the public interest and payment is necessary for this to be done."

But the Woodward case is believed to have received \$40,000 from the Daily Mail for an interview given to the paper by Louise's parents, Gary and Sue last November.

Despite publicly denying that they intended to make money from the tragedy, it is understood the family continued to negotiate with newspapers and publishers over rights to her life story.

The Daily Mail is thought to be heading the tabloid pack for the story and it was the

behind the scenes wheeler-dealer that led to the fall-out with her lawyer Elaine Whitfield Sharp. She was horrified to find out about the Woodward's behaviour, and branded Louise a "lying monster" in a conversation taped by a lawyer.

Yesterday's decision means Woodward is free to go home after an 18-month rollercoaster ride around the American justice system. Her lawyer Andrew Good said she can go to college and begin the rest of her life, but the decision was not an outright victory for either side.

Both sides appealed against Judge Zobel's decision. Woodward's lawyers had

'There are degrees of injustice, and the outcome could have been much worse'

Andrew Good, Woodward lawyer

demand her manslaughter conviction be quashed outright, while the prosecution had hoped to have the original jury verdict reinstated and Woodward sent back to jail.

The Supreme Court took three months to reach a decision. Gary Woodward woke his daughter at 10am yesterday in Marble Head, near Boston, where she and her parents have been staying with a friend, to tell her the news.

Susan Woodward said the decision was "absolutely fantastic." Only three days ago, Mrs Woodward's former best friend and Woodward campaigner, Jean Jones, accused her of mismanaging the money raised by the public to help Louise.

Though Louise refused to comment herself, her lawyers expressed relief that she could finally go home but also disappointment that her conviction still stood. "There is unrefuted biological evidence

that the skull fracture (suffered by Matthew) did not occur while Louise had sole custody of Matthew," said Mr Good.

He said the au-pair still maintained her absolute innocence. But he accepted the court's decision was pragmatic. "We recognise there are degrees of injustice and the outcome could have been much worse."

Mr Good said Woodward would go home as soon as possible when she received her passport, confiscated by the court last October, which could take several days.

Questioned over Mrs Whitfield Sharp's allegations that Woodward was trying to sell her story for several hundred thousand pounds, Mr Good said he was not aware of any deal. "There are no deals. I don't understand Louise will profit from Matthew's death."

Speaking on American television, Mrs Whitfield Sharp denied ever saying she thought Woodward was guilty but repeated her concerns over the management of the trust fund by Mrs Woodward.

After joining the Eappen family as their au-pair in December 1996, Louise Woodward was arrested and charged with the first degree murder of Matthew Eappen in February 1997.

After a five-week trial last October, in which the prosecution argued that she had smashed Matthew Eappen's skull with the same force as dropping him from a two storey building, the au-pair was convicted of second degree murder last October.

The defence claimed that Matthew died of an earlier injury.

But in a surprise decision 10 days later, which drew media comment from across the world, Judge Zobel overruled the jury verdict and reduced the conviction to manslaughter setting the au-pair free.

Yesterday Deborah and Sunil Eappen refused to comment on the decision and left their home with a police escort for an undisclosed address. Mrs Eappen gave birth to a new baby, Kevin, last month.

From her home in Chicago, Matthew's grandmother Achamma Eappen said: "I'm not angry but... it's kind of you lose faith in the justice system, you really do."



Coming home... Louise Woodward is free to leave the US — and set to cash in on a newspaper deal. PHOTOGRAPH: BRIAN SNYDER

Jobless rise first in 2 years

UNEMPLOYMENT has increased for the first time in more than two years, official figures will show today, presenting the Government with the first real test of its economic policies and New Deal programme.

The jobless total will register its first rise since March 1996 — the last blip in a five-year downward trend — and will heighten fears that the economy is heading for a sharper downturn than had been hoped.

Alarmingly for the Government, today's figures will also show earnings growth running at a rate the Chancellor, Gordon Brown, believes cannot be sustained.

Although slower economic growth had been expected to produce lengthening dole queues, a rise in the jobless figures today will come as a surprise in the City, where analysts had been predicting a fall in May of around 12,000.

But the long-running fall in British unemployment has been reversed by the high pound and interest rates, which have hit manufacturing in particular — and the economy has yet to absorb the full impact of the Asian financial crisis.

"We have been warning for some time that the high value of the pound would hit jobs," a TUC spokesman said last night, "and it looks like our worst fears have been confirmed."

Normally, rising unemployment would add pressure for further interest rate rises. But the acceleration of average earnings growth from the current 4.8 per cent rate — which could in turn feed further price rises — is likely to mean rates remaining at least on hold. They could even be increased to avoid a breach of the Government's 2.5 per cent inflation target.

The Bank of England's monetary policy committee will want to see earnings growth falling back before they cut the cost of borrowing.

Brown wins youth pay fight, page 2

'Lots of the boys are still at home. There's plenty of time yet'

As British hooligans passed through the French courts yesterday police expressed surprise at the large number of 'unknowns' in their ranks.

Back in London **Robert Yates** talked to hardcore hooligans about to set off for France and listened to claims that football hooliganism is back in fashion

"A FEW years ago, football hooliganism had a recruitment problem," says Chris, a 31-year-old from Portsmouth, speaks with some authority. Information technology is his profession — he works in the City; football hooliganism is his regular occupation. Tall, articulate, well-dressed, Chris has been watching events unfold in Marseille from home.

He had not expected things to "kick off" so quickly, he explains, sitting in a pub in

south London. Chris follows Portsmouth but, largely through attending England games, has made hooligan alliances throughout the country. He is proud of the number of category Cs — hard-core hooligans according to the police's classification — stored on his mobile phone.

"Lots of the boys are still at home," he says. "There's plenty of time yet. Don't forget we might still play Germany or Argentina. We've been waiting for Argentina."

Tim Hollis, the South Yorkshire assistant chief constable in charge of British liaison with the French security effort, expressed surprise that there were so many "significant newcomers" causing

Scots make their point



A Scotland fan celebrating as his team kept alive their hopes of qualifying for the second stage of the World Cup by drawing 1-1 with Norway in Bordeaux. The Scots were the better side but needed an equaliser from Craig Burley to gain their first Group A point.

Photograph: Mark Thompson/Report

Sport, pages 14-16; Release of fans undermines tough talk, page 4; Polly Toynbee, page 8; Letters, page 9

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the INTERNATIONAL

ian

TO MY DAD

The edible Father's Day card.

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2 NEWS

Sketch

Give us our winter of discontent



Simon Hoggart

ANN Widdecombe made her first big speech from the despatch box yesterday. I enjoyed what I heard. Sadly, that wasn't much. Someone had got the volume control wrong. Even at her normal speaking level she sounds like those badly tuned amplifiers at rock concerts. Just when you've worked out which song is being played underneath the barrage of noise, there's a tremendous "screeee" sound and everybody slams their hands on to their ears.

"Fund hold-screens!" "People feel screens down," and "what he BWEREEF be doing is..." It's like being addressed by a convention of angry bats.

There's an old Hollywood cliché in which the roughish hero says to the feisty heroine: "You know, you look beautiful when you're angry." Miss Widdecombe appears to be angry all the time, and she does look rather stylish these days. The jet black suit and the jet black hair set off the primrose blouse. In the old days she dropped over the box, so that you thought she was about to play the national anthem on motor horns and beg for fish. Now she stands up straight.

The House was, however, at its worst. The topic was waiting lists in the National Health Service, which have risen by about 100,000 since Labour got in — even though reducing the lists was one of the party's "early pledges". This is a difficulty. They might once have tried to fight back with soundbites: "We don't say hospital waiting lists any longer. We call them 'Roll Calls of Hope'."

Now they have adopted a subtler, multi-layered strategy, which is to declare that the Tories can't talk since waiting lists rose steadily under them, and Labour has put lots of money into hospi-

als, and that the lists will fall sooner or later (they hope) and, in any case, who in their right mind thought they would drop straight away? You didn't believe we would do it just because we promised we would? Are you mad? Ha, ha!

Meanwhile the Tories pretend that all the problems faced by the NHS date from May 2 last year. Miss Widdecombe even blamed the Government for the failure of thousands of old age pensioners to die. "The Winter Crisis that did not materialise," she shouted through the PA system that is her larynx. "Extra nurses paid at great expense! They had nothing to SCREEEEEP because there was no winter crisis!"

She added that it wasn't actually Frank Dobson's fault that the winter had been milder than expected, which was nice of her. But some of us remember how the Tories were hanging on about the Winter of Discontent for almost two decades after it happened. Now they are moaning about the Winter of Content.

At this point Labour officials began passing around a paper full of tendentious statistics. For every hospital the Tories said had been closed, they produced figures demonstrating the vast amount of cash being spent on the nation's health.

Some young Labour lick-spittles interrupted Miss Widdecombe to ask whether she was aware that some £5 million was being lavished on the west Kent area? One hundred and thirty-two new beds! Ill health in the west Kent region abolished! The papers would be full of letters from Delighted of Tunbridge Wells. I did not catch the young greaser's name, but you can be sure it is now engraved in the whips' Golden Book of Remembrance.

Tories spotted that all the interventions were being read from the crib sheet, and shouted: "Come on, pass it along! Read it out!"

Then they produced their own scripted horror story — a boy with a painful throat condition which had not been treated for 19 months. I am sure this is a scandal, but they should be wary of making too much of single cases — don't they remember the War of Jennifer's Ear?

Review

Music beyond redemption

Andrew Clements

Dr Ox's Experiment
English National Opera,
London Coliseum

IT IS possible for a vivid staging to redeem a new opera — David Freeman managed to turn base metal into gold at the Coliseum with Philip Glass's *Akhmatov* — but sometimes the task is beyond the most fertile visual imagination. The film-maker Atom Egoyan's production of Dr Ox's *Experiment*, Gavin Bryars's commission for ENO, conjures arresting stage pictures, but they can do nothing to breathe life into a dramatically inert and often miscast piece of music theatre.

The Jules Verne story on which Blake Morrison has based his libretto is a slender tale: a parable of social engineering, or of industrialisation or of missionary interference. The ruthless Dr Ox and his assistant, Yegne, descend upon the somnolent town of Quinquendone, somewhere in Flanders, which has not changed for 700 years. The inhabitants produce whipped cream and barley sugar, all of which they consume themselves, and life goes on in a tranquil lethargy.

Under the guise of bringing electricity to the town Ox carries out an experiment, piping an oxygen-like gas into the atmosphere to see what effect it has on behaviour. The effect is dramatic: the place is thrown into turmoil, some people become deliriously happy, others aggressive and, as Ox looks on, they plan to wage war on their nearest neighbours. Just as battle is about to begin, there is an explosion and the town reverts to its former self, though still changed

in many subtle ways. It is a rich enough source for an opera text, and Morrison's words, somewhat uneven in tone and heavy on rhyming couplets, contain moments of sharp wit and sly humour. But all of that goes for very little when subjugated to Bryars's music, which in its deadpan vocal lines flattens out all the verbal imagery that is audible, and underpins them with music of very limited harmonic and rhythmic movement and only occasional flashes of textural variety.

The first act is interminable, unvaried, uninvolved; the second act is more sharply focused, but even that has its longeurs, and the pacing of the final scene in particular lacks dramatic nous. What passing beauties there are in the combinations of solo voices and instruments are more than outweighed by the treacly accumulations of the choral writing and the anachronous orchestral interludes.

Egoyan, making his British opera debut, does what he can. Some of his images, in Michael Levine's designs, are breathtaking. But they are little more than static tableaux — the music does not permit anything else — and in the end add nothing in the way of the aural momentum to an evening that moves at snail's pace, though the performance is superb. Bona-ventura Bottone is Ox and Riccardo Simonetti Yegne; among the lotus-eating locals, there are outstanding contributions from Della Jones, Valérie Anderson and Nicholas Polwell. But as the first new opera company for four years it is not a happy occasion.

This review appeared in later editions yesterday.

Beckett team 'incandescent' in cabinet feud as Blair backs £3 minimum for young amid fear for jobs

Brown wins youth pay fight

Mark Atkinson, Larry Elliott
and Seamus Milne

GORDON BROWN, the Chancellor, is understood to have won Tony Blair's backing for an initial £3 youth minimum wage in the teeth of resistance from trade and industry ministers, the Low Pay Commission, the TUC and the CBI.

The Government is now expected to delay the £3.30 youth minimum for 18 to 20-year-olds recommended by the Low Pay Commission until autumn 2000. The initial £3 youth rate, and the main £3.60 rate, would come into force next spring. An announcement is expected this week.

Fearful of the impact on jobs of too high a rate for 18 to 20-year-olds, the Chancellor has offered them extra skills training to try to quell opposition to his proposal from the unions and Labour backbenchers.

The argument over whether to accept the full Low Pay Commission report, agreed by representatives of the TUC and CBI, has led to a sharp Cabinet conflict between Mr Brown and Margaret Beckett, Trade and Industry Secretary.

DTI ministers were last night said to be incandescent at Mr Brown's role in the dispute and any decision to set aside a key commission recommendation could lead to a furious reaction from Labour backbenchers and the TUC, which is already un-

happy at any lower youth rate.

"Economically, this is peanuts, but politically it could be a bombshell," a minister said last night.

In a speech to the British Chambers of Commerce in Birmingham yesterday, TUC general secretary John Monks said the unions would "jump free" if the partnership process underpinning the Low Pay Commission was set aside. Only 40,000 young people would have their minimum rate reduced if the Chancellor succeeded in cutting the commission's recommendation. That showed the argument was about "political games, rather than hard economics", a TUC source said.

As part of the minimum wage package, Mr Brown pro-

poses to pump a "significant amount of money" into expanding training to increase young people's earning power. This will be part of the extra cash for David Blunkett's Education and Employment Department, being finalised ahead of next month's publication of the Comprehensive Spending Review.

Mr Brown has been stung by the criticism of his stance over the minimum wage, but is pressing for "sensible and cautious" implementation to ensure no detrimental impact on youth employment when the economy is set to enter a period of slower growth.

He fears that full implementation of the Low Pay Commission recommendations could undermine the New Deal, designed to get the young and long term unem-

ployed off the dole. He is concerned that setting the youth rate too high could cost thousands of jobs.

Treasury figures show that 21 per cent of 18-20 year olds earn less than £3.20 an hour against 8 per cent who stand to benefit from the proposed adult rate.

A minimum wage of £3.20 an hour for 18-20 year olds would be equivalent to an average pay rise of 30 per cent for the age group, the Treasury has calculated. About 20 per cent of 18-20 year-olds would get wage rises of more than 50 per cent.

"The US experience shows that a minimum wage does not cost jobs as long as it is set at a sensible level and implemented carefully with particular attention paid to the young," said a Treasury

source, adding that the Prime Minister was sympathetic to the Chancellor's views. "There is no difference between them on this issue."

But trade unionists point to figures from the Low Pay Commission report, showing that even if its recommendations were accepted in full, only 3 per cent of male full-time workers and 8 per cent of female full-time workers will benefit — as compared with about a fifth of part-timers.

A spokesman for the GMB union said last night that it would be "bitterly disappointed" if even those modest proposals were watered down. The Government is likely to come under heavy attack over the minimum wage at the Unions conference in Bournemouth today.



Sellafield... Safety officers at the Atomic Energy Authority have asked for millions to make safe facilities dating back to the 1960s

PHOTOGRAPH: JACKY CHAPMAN

Leaking Sellafield waste 'could explode'

Documents reveal safety fears over ageing cooling systems

Paul Brown
Environment Correspondent

NUCLEAR waste stored at Sellafield is leaking and could explode because the cooling system is old and inadequate, according to documents leaked to the Guardian.

The papers describe fears of a hydrogen explosion similar to that which blew the concrete lid off a waste shaft at Dounreay, in the Highland region, in 1977 and scattered nuclear particles over a wide area. Nuclear "hotspots" are still being discovered around the site, which the Government announced last week was to be shut down.

The documents, dated February this year, show safety officers from the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority (UKAEA) asking for millions of pounds from the Department of Trade and Industry to make safe facilities at Sellafield, dating back to the 1960s, which are used to store and process nuclear waste.

The authority, which ran the Cumbria site until the 1970s, is responsible for some of Sellafield's clean-up costs. Authority officials say doing nothing is not an option. Last night, however, British Nuclear Fuels, which now runs the installation, issued a statement saying it was confident that its plants were safe.

The UKAEA documents

reveal that in one building the waste, which is stored in water, overheated and went close to exploding "several times" in the 1970s. New cooling equipment solved the problem. Now the system has sprung a leak, with radioactive liquid contaminating the cooling water. Workers are being subjected to a high radiation dose and the waste is 15C too hot for safe operation during the summer.

The authority says the waste corrodes under water, giving off hydrogen gas in a heat-producing reaction. The documents also detail engineering problems in a modern part of the plant which is supposed to turn the most dangerous high level waste into glass blocks — vitrification for eventual disposal. The officials suggest that if the problems at this plant are not dealt with the

government regulator, the Nuclear Installation Inspectorate, may close some of the reprocessing facilities.

The BNFL site at Sellafield employs more than 5,000 people and has two large reprocessing works. Several redundant buildings dating from the 1950s nuclear bomb programme are heavily contaminated with nuclear waste or used as storage for liquid waste and old equipment.

One with a cooling system problem is Building 30, which contains large concrete silos filled with cooling water to prevent old nuclear fuel elements from Magnox nuclear reactors catching fire. They ignite in contact with air.

Tipping of waste into the silos began in 1984 and although the storage facility has been extended three times it has been full since 1989. This is the building

which the authority says carries an explosion risk.

Building 29, which dates from 1950, was used for making Britain's first hydrogen bomb. Large ponds contain radioactive fuel, sludge, skips and other debris. Among the fears here is that the tanks were not built to withstand even very small earthquakes.

"The pond is not seismically qualified and would be vulnerable to a shock intensity of 0.25g if left unattended," the document says. Carliole nearby had a shock one third larger than that in 1979.

More money is required to replace a crane in Building 30, which is used for storing spent fuel elements awaiting reprocessing. The crane is 14 years past its design life and could deteriorate with metal fatigue.

A spokesman for the authority confirmed that the

documents were genuine. A spokesman for BNFL said the documents were written to explain the worst possible scenario, so the authority could justify the extra expenditure. He accepted that the cooling system needed upgrading but said there was no danger. BNFL was confident its plants were safe.

The company admitted it had experienced engineering and reliability problems with the vitrification plant, but said these had been solved. The earthquake danger was very slight, and the storage tanks could stand a one-in-10,000-year event.

A spokesman for the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate said its inspectors were not prepared to comment on leaked documents but confirmed that it was "not dissatisfied" with progress at the vitrification plant.

'Lots of the boys are still at home. There's plenty of time. We're waiting for Argentina'

continued from page one
He travels to France later this week.

After the excesses of the 1980s, marked most horribly by the death of 38 Italians before the Liverpool-Juventus European Cup Final at Heysel Stadium in 1985, the 90s ushered in a decline in hooliganism. It's now a commonplace in terrace life that late 80s/early 90s rave culture helped tame football violence.

"That's all been talked up," says Chris. "People saying West Ham and Millwall fans were all on ecstasy kissing each other. But it's true that kids seemed less interested for a few years." Now, however, there are plenty of teenagers and early 20-somethings about, he says, and they are "not that well attached".

The form for the would-be

thug has long been to ingratiate himself with a known "firm". "But now the young guys travel more, show less respect, see the Headhunters [notorious Chelsea hooligans] as grandads."

By travelling, he means that hooligans will hitch themselves more readily to different clubs. Less comfortably for those rehearsing the standard line that hooligans are not "proper" fans, they often prove highly knowledgeable about the game.

Chris thinks that the main trouble in, and on the way to, Toulouse where England play their next game might arise from old domestic scores being settled.

Being an English hooligan is a complicated business, confirms Robin, a 25-year-old clerical worker from Wor-

thing, also getting ready for France. "You have to be careful who you talk to." Many clubs contribute "firms", though Chelsea described proudly by one hooligan as the club that "flies the flag" — is currently dominant.

Most of the other London "firms" travel to England games in strength, while Birmingham City, Middlesbrough and Leeds are also mentioned approvingly. The protocol at England games is normally to forget domestic differences.

"You see another firm, one you've had a run-in with, and you give a 'not now' look — out of respect for England," says Chris. "But too much happened last season."

The last months of the domestic English season were scarred by violence. In late

March, 24-year-old Mathew Fox was killed at a match between Gillingham and Fulham. "You see someone on the train to Toulouse you've had a row with, you're not going to forget," says Chris.

Every now and then, asking these men for details of what they do does not seem enough. (None will actually describe violence. "That's pathetic," says one, "all that talk about the buzz, that's for TV.")

But you don't get very far asking the obvious ethical questions — about right and wrong, guilt. Nobody offers any justification. Repeatedly, a hooligan will say he knows it's wrong but enjoys it.

"Running with a firm, it's not like committing a personal crime," says Robin. He travels to domestic games in

other countries, which has become something of a custom for English hooligans. "The grounds are not as well policed as in England. You still see fighting inside."

He will travel to France, and thinks inter-club alliances might complicate national rivalries. The Chelsea "firm" is friendly with Feyenoord of Rotterdam, for instance, partly, it's said, because Feyenoord's rivals, Ajax, have a big Jewish fan base.

Casual racism is common in conversation, and many hooligans are highly alert to difference. Members of fascist outfits such as Combat 18 will sometimes be seen at England games, but they are not normally a decisive factor. The extreme politics seem to be

worn like clothes, easily discarded. (A quick poll among hooligans reveals that most voted Labour in the last election.)

In Marseille, a Front National stronghold, there had been tentative arrangements between English hooligans and local right-wingers. But the French did not like the look of the English, preferring their xenophobes to dress in suits.

"Well, nobody likes us," says Chris, with something approaching pride. Chris reckons the only thing that will stop his friends and himself is age.

"You get to that time, and I'm getting there, when you think can I be bothered? The other mob might not show. But the weather's going to be good in France."

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That night I was
restaurant call
in. "We are full,
far swankier place
Gary Younge takes
over sto

Blair claims EU shift towards British goals

Martin Walker and Michael White

TONY Blair wrapped up Britain's 1998 European summit yesterday with the confident claim of "a transformation in our own relations with Europe" that had defined a new agenda for sweeping economic and political reform across the union.

With Jacques Santer, president of the European Commission, offering full support at their joint end-of-summit press conference in Cardiff, Mr Blair rattled off a list of agenda-setting agreements to boost economic efficiency and deregulation and bring the EU closer to its increasingly disenchanted peoples.

The initiatives range from a Brussels "scoreboard" to monitor progress to complete the EU's single market, to national action plans to create jobs and stimulate the growth of small firms. Mr Blair even promised action on an easy populist target: MEPs' pay and generous expenses.

"Europe has moved. There's a significant change that is happening," Mr Blair said, in reference to the joint letter from Chancellor Helmut Kohl and President Jacques Chirac eschewing "a central European state" and echoing British concerns about bringing Europe closer to its people.

"There are developments here in line with British thinking, but not just British. The pressure for change has come from individual European countries," Mr Blair added.

The sentiments expressed amounted to an unwritten Treaty of Cardiff that Britain would drop the old alternating rhetoric of being Eurosceptic or a self-styled Euro-leader, while the Europeans would embrace Britain's aversion to a centralised Euro-state and move closer towards its free market approach to economic reform.

That comes close to endorsement of the Blairite search for a "third way" which European socialist parties this week agreed to pursue. In the short term members will push forward reforms to liberalise tax policies and other impediments to job creation, and to improve skills training and create a more flexible labour force. The European social model now has a distinct Anglo-Saxon flavour.

Though the Prime Minister again stressed the importance of the single currency "it is in our interest that the euro succeeds" in an unstable world — he coupled a reassertion of the role of national governments with a dismissal of once fashionable federalism.

'Europe has moved. Developments are in line with British thinking'

"The issue is not whether we can remain independent of the euro. Clearly we can. But the question is whether it is in our best economic interest," he said.

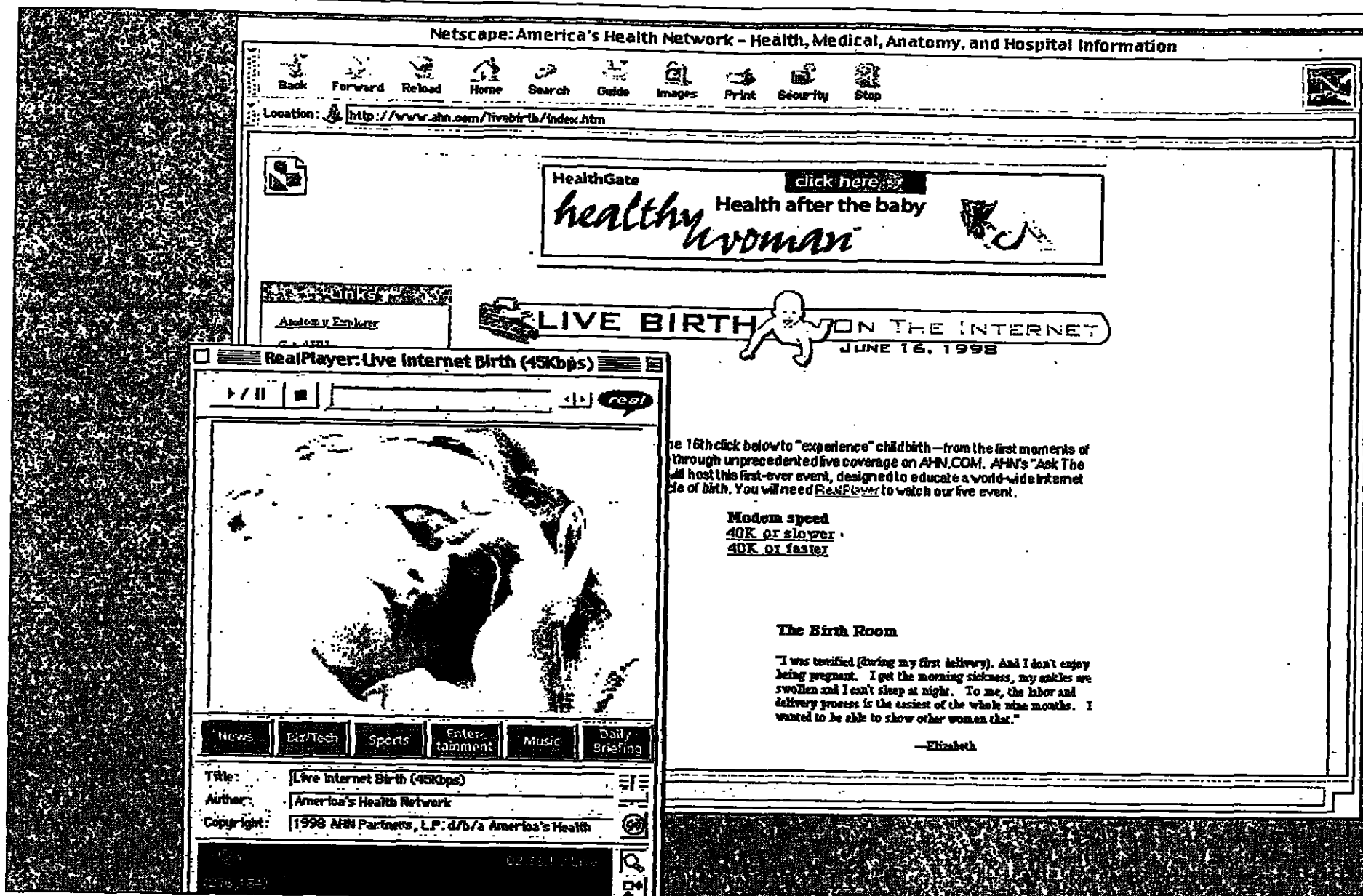
Mr Blair expressed the new economic orthodoxy in stark terms: success depended on two factors, "prudent and strict" fiscal and monetary policy at the macro-level, and competitiveness and adaptability at the micro-level.

After Mr Blair had cited common action on the environment as one area where all Europeans wanted more integration, Friends of the Earth condemned the Cardiff summit as "not much greener than a multi-storey car park".

A spokesman for the pressure group, Gordon James, said: "This summit could have been about the environment. It could have been about jobs. Instead, it was another missed opportunity with more tedious photo calls for weary world leaders. What is the point of holding these expensive events, when so little of benefit to ordinary people happens as a result?"

The summit cost the taxpayer £12 million.

Cardiff summit, page 5; Leader comment, page 9



Visitors to the site of America's Health Network were invited to click on a cartoon baby. And for many, that was as close as they got to seeing the real thing yesterday

Sean slips through the Net as on-line birth suffers blackout

In the end it was all too much for the technology, reports Mark Lawson

THE first human birth to be transmitted live on the Internet had been billed as the ultimate downloading, a nativity story for the third millennium. But Sean from www.ahn.com suffered a complicated delivery, not obstetrically but technologically.

A 40-year-old woman from Florida, who allowed only her first name, Elizabeth, to be publicised, had agreed that the birth of her fourth child at Arnold Palmer Hospital in Orlando would be given away by live coverage on the Net.

She said she wanted to give nervous expectant mothers the chance to "experience" a birth. Unfortunately, because of the technical limitations of the Internet, the main experience simulated yesterday was that of trying to find out whether a friend has given birth when the hospital switchboard has exploded.

Coverage was billed to begin at 11am on the Website of America's Health Network (AHN), a medical television channel. Users clicked twice below a cute pink cartoon of a baby and were then transported live to the Florida delivery room where Dr Walt Larimore, a sexy medic in the best ER tradition, was coming on like a gynaecological Des Lynam, smoothly setting up events.

The baby, we were told, was known to be a boy and would be called Sean. You felt it should be something more technological, like Cy.



US television shows 7lb 8oz Sean as Internet viewers should have seen him

A camera waited, aimed between Elizabeth's knees. But, halfway through a speech about "this miraculous event", Dr Walt froze. After several motionless minutes, he disappeared to be replaced by a message reading: "Net congestion — rebuffering".

For the next two hours, tiny soundbites from Dr Walt — "babies with sugar in their water..." — "insert a catheter..." — "check the name tags..." — alternated with this apologetic caption.

Verbally fragmented, the coverage was also visually disappointing. Features were smudged and movements jerky. Following another bout of congestion and rebuffering, we watched as Elizabeth reclined in her nightgown. A doctor bent over her. The images broke up again. It was like watching an episode of

ER on a 1930s television at the bottom of a valley.

At last, in Britain, breakfast in America, coverage crashed completely. British computer users were shouting "push, push" — at their search engines. "Net congestion — rebuffering" came up 100 times. Delivery was aborted.

Childbirth is a regular event on television. But the appeal of parturition on the Internet was presumably that delivery would be unedited and in real time. Technology, however, became a brutal editor and limited the information first to hourly bulletins and then to silence. The future of computing looked embarrassingly like the ancient past of television.

All attempts by the Guardian's technical experts to access the Website throughout

the afternoon failed. British users were left like relatives in a telephone box, waiting for the news on paper.

Through the old-fashioned channels, news agencies later announced Sean's safe delivery. He weighed 7lb 8oz. It was reported that a nurse had obscured the moment of birth.

If Elizabeth delivered successfully, the Internet didn't. Launched as a technocrat's flagship, the service has a curious tendency to give comfort to Luddites. The World Wide Web failed a previous high-profile test last year when the release of the Louise Woodward verdict, promised in cyberspace, had to be distributed instead through photocopies. Now Sean, the would-be baby of the future, has also slipped through the Net.

World Wide Washout

□ The Associated Press was left with egg on its face this month after accidentally publishing an obituary of the comedian Bob Hope on its website. The report was spotted by a US congressman who broke the news to colleagues from the floor of the House of Representatives.

□ Internet prophets declared that the medium had come of age last year when Judge Hiller Zobel announced that his ruling in the Louise Woodward case would be published first on the World Wide Web. When the moment arrived, however, massive demand clogged up all the sites publishing the ruling and the news was broken by an old-fashioned wire agency.

□ When Downing Street staged a live Internet interview with Tony Blair in April, the event was hailed as a milestone for online democracy. But most web surfers who managed to access the site were greeted with a blank square where the Prime Minister should have been.

□ After the death of the Princess of Wales last year there were frenzied reports that paparazzi photographs taken of her as she lay dying were widely available on the Internet. One gory photograph reproduced on countless sites was quickly shown to be a fake.

□ In 1997, a document purporting to be a secret report on the downing of a

TWA Boeing 747 en route from New York to Paris began circulating on the Internet. Conspiracy theorists claimed the document proved that the jet had been accidentally shot down by a US warship. It was a fake.

□ Matt Drudge, the Internet gossip columnist, was sued for \$30 million by US presidential adviser Sidney Blumenthal after alleging Mr Blumenthal had a history of "spousal abuse". Drudge issued a retraction but the affair has sparked a heated debate over standards of journalism on the Internet.

□ Last July, e-mails sent by millions of Internet users arrived back in their in-trays after 13 computers which act as the backbone of the international network all crashed.

Ian Katz

Rethink drugs war, urge German police

Call for addicts to be treated as ill people rather than criminals

Denis Staunton in Berlin

GERMAN police chiefs joined medical experts and politicians yesterday in calling for an end to the war on drugs and the introduction of controlled distribution of heroin to addicts.

A survey of parliamentarians showed support for a change in drug policy within all Germany's main parties. Campaigners for a new pol-

icy are confident that a change of government in September's federal election would herald a dramatic shift in official attitudes towards drugs — which could have a knock-on effect across Europe.

The Social Democrats, Greens and Liberal Free Democrats have long been signalling that they would welcome a change in drugs policy, said Dr Ingo Fienker, a member of the board of the Federal Chamber of Doctors.

Self-help groups, Aids organisations and drug advisory centres held a day of action yesterday, calling for addicts to be treated as ill rather than as criminals.

Bonn's police commissioner, Dierk Schnitzler, is one of 12 police chiefs to support the demand for change. "Even if we had four times as many police officers, we could not solve the drug problem. We would only push the prices up and the dealers will make even bigger profits. Humanity dictates that we should help addicts, who are sick people," he said.

Hans Dieter Kloss, claims that the war on drugs cannot be won and that present policy is creating crime by forcing addicts to steal. "60 per cent of robberies today are committed by drug addicts," he said.

Campaigners for change want Germany to follow the Swiss lead by giving addicts heroin under medical supervision, and by providing safe places for them to inject using clean needles.

Switzerland started offering addicts heroin on prescription four years ago, with psychotherapy and advice on returning to work. Since

then, addict crime has fallen by two-thirds, illegal drug use has dropped and almost one-third of those in the scheme have returned to work.

With an election due, neither Mr Kohl nor his Social Democrat challenger, Gerhard Schröder, is likely to back any softening in official attitudes towards drugs. But Stefan Edgeton of Deutsche Aids Hilfe, Germany's biggest group for people with HIV and Aids, is confident that the mood on drugs has changed so dramatically that politicians will have to take notice. "It's almost as if a dam has broken," he said.

That night I went in search of food and ended up on Via Pisani at a restaurant called Al Graticciello. The woman at the door would not let me in. "We are full," she said. She was lying. I have been refused service at far swankier places than the Al Graticciello and I know the drill.

Gary Young takes a tour of racist Europe

G2 cover story

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Fans of different football philosophies

Release of hooligans undermines tough talk

John Duncan in Marseille and Stuart Miller

THE French authorities last night provoked astonishment by releasing without charge 25 England supporters arrested in Marseille during the worst violence experienced at a World Cup final.

British officials voiced surprise at their release as many were specifically picked out by British police spotters as known troublemakers.

The move, confirmed by the city's assistant prosecutor, appeared to contradict warnings from the Marseille police and judiciary that they would severely punish hooliganism.

It followed the expulsion from France of five English hooligans suspected of involvement in what a French judge dubbed the "sacking" of Marseille before England's match against Tunisia.

The French interior minister, Jean-Pierre Chevènement, who signed the expulsion orders, said: "It's a message of firmness towards the troublemakers. No excesses will be tolerated."

Five more England fans were remanded in custody and another released on unconditional bail to be dealt with at a later date.

The expulsions came as French police, working on information provided by police forces in Scotland, intercepted a coachload of 58 suspected Scottish hooligans who were allegedly trying to "sneak" into the country via Spain to avoid checks at Channel ports.

The group — all said to be Category C known hooligans — were fed and allowed to watch the match against Norway on TV in a hall in Bordeaux. They were expected to leave the country tonight.

British police and police officials privately expressed dismay at the expulsions. They have worked hard to convince French authorities to prosecute fans causing trouble. On Monday, Tim Hollis, the senior British police officer in France, urged the authorities to make an example of hooligans.

The headache for British authorities is that if fans are deported — a simple and inexpensive administrative procedure in France not requiring conviction of any kind — there is nothing that can be done to prevent them from travelling abroad to future England games.

But a spokesman for the Home Secretary, Jack Straw, said the French immigration officers had the power to keep the expelled troublemakers out of France for the remainder of the tournament.

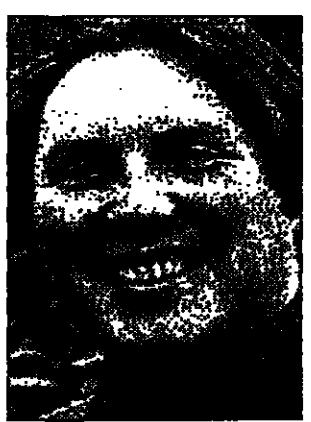
As three England fans convicted late on Monday night began their first day in jail, there was an embarrassing revelation for the English football authorities yesterday when it emerged that one of them, Paul Shaylor from Wellington, Northamptonshire, was given his tickets by the Football Association.

Shaylor joined the England Members Club in April 1997 and was vetted for previous convictions. He applied for tickets through the official channels and received one of England's 1,200 official seats for Monday's match. The FA said last night he would be expelled immediately.

Preparations have already begun in Toulouse for the arrival in the next few days of England supporters amid fears that the numbers following England will mean many fans will be unable to get into the stadium which has a capacity of 34,000.

As a measure of the seriousness of the situation, Toulouse's mayor, Dominique Baudis, yesterday announced the cancellation of a music festival on Sunday because of the fixture the following day. Plans to show the game live on big screens throughout the city, where residents said they were "extremely anxious" about violence breaking out before the game, were also called off.

Police will be at full strength for the match and throughout the weekend, with the police chief announcing there will be around 180 extra police drafted in for the extra police drafted in for the match. The 1,200 already scheduled to be on duty.



James Shaylor (right), jailed for two months, and Peter Bray (left), who is held in custody in France

'After a few drinks he becomes one of the lads'

Helen Carter on fractious fans in France

JAMES SHAYLER, 32

Leeds United Football Club banned hooligan fan James Shaylor for life yesterday in a swift response to his behaviour in Marseille and revoked his membership card.

Shaylor, who is 32 and from Wellington, Northamptonshire, was given his tickets by the Football Association. He has been warned by a judge that he could be jailed.

The 28-year-old engineer from Nuneaton, Warwickshire, still lives with his mother, Avril, in his home town. He has been remanded in custody in France until July 17.

Bray's mother said yesterday: "He has been plan-

ning this trip with his friends for many months. He goes all over the world for his football."

EDWARD STOVES, 24

Private Edward Stoves' parents say they read him the riot act before he left for the World Cup, but that did not stop him being pictured behind someone burning a Tunisian flag.

The 24-year-old Portsmouth fan, who joined the army eight years ago and was married in January this year, took a fortnight off from the Royal Corps of Signals, based near Bath, to travel to Marseille with his army pals and arrived

in France without a ticket. His mother Kathleen, who lives in Farham, Surrey, said: "I feared something like this would happen. We didn't want Edward to go and we tried to put him off."

GRAHAM WHITEY, 26

Neighbours of convicted hooligan Graham Whitey yesterday said his violent behaviour in France was totally out of character. The 26-year-old Everton fan was jailed for three months by a French court for setting fire to a car on Sunday with his friend Christopher Anderson.

Whitely, a Liverpool sort-

ing office worker, could face disciplinary action from the Post Office. His aunt Mary Williams said football was his life. "He and his mate had been working night and day to go to this World Cup. He's a good lad."

CHRISTOPHER ANDERSON, 26

Postal worker Christopher Anderson's friends spoke of their disgust after he was jailed for three months with Whitely. A colleague at the Parcel Force depot in Netherton, Liverpool, where Anderson, 26, has worked for

four years, said: "At work, he's quiet — you wouldn't think he'd be one of the lads."

PHILIP BRYAN, 37

Philip Bryan is a Leeds United supporter who left home at 16 to join the Royal Air Force, as a firefighter. The 37-year-old divorcee is accused of breaking windows by throwing cans and assaulting police. He will be tried next month.

His father, Darrel Bryan, said: "It is a good job his mother is not alive to see it."

Tartan Army marches on with charm offensive

Jon Henley in Bordeaux

THEY were drunk, they were noisy, they were bare-chested and tattooed and beer-swilling — and standing in a park by the river yesterday afternoon the people of Bordeaux could not get enough of them.

"They're amazing," said Isabelle, a schoolteacher, as the Tartan Army roared and swayed in front of the giant screen the town council had erected for the occasion. "They're polite, they're

funny, they try and speak French to us — it's been one big party since they came."

The Scots began arriving last Thursday. By yesterday afternoon, when their team faced Norway in the Stade Lescaur, police estimated there were 15,000 in town.

"There have been a couple of little scraps, but nothing we've had to get involved with," said a police spokesman. "Considering what these guys drink, it's astonishing. We've been very impressed."

Mixing happily in a crowd

of some 15,000 in the vast open-air Stade Mondial were Scottish families with young children, red-painted Norwegian fans in Viking helmets, and a lone Belgian with a sword of Saint Andrew painted on both cheeks.

"I came here yesterday to see the Scottish fans," said Lieve Verheijen. "They have such a good reputation. I heard they like to party. This is what football is supposed to be like."

It was not always that way. Dave and Mike, two Scottish fans, said they remembered

when the Tartan Army had one of the worst reputations in Europe.

"We stopped it," said Dave. "We realised we were on the edge. Nowadays it's a matter of pride — not that there aren't nutters around, but we look after each other. We won't let people get into trouble any more."

In full kilt and sporran, Mike agreed. "I was in Paris on Wednesday for the Brazil match, and I got a bit drunk," he said. "Not horribly drunk, but a bit mouthy, you know. I got a big Scottish boot

straight up my backside."

As Scotland equalised, the crowd erupted. It was not enough to stir one Scot, slumped unconscious against a waste bin, revealing that the legend about what lies under the kilt was true.

"Sometimes they drink a bit too much," sighed Lisa from Aberdeen, sitting on a cafe terrace with her friend Kerry and their children, the youngest aged nine months. "Last night, on the main square, there were Norwegians in kilts dancing jigs, and Scots in Viking helmets

shouting 'Norway,' she said. Even the Norwegians were impressed. "Considering the Vikings knocked hell out of them a thousand years ago, they're very forgiving," said Benni, aged 26, from Aalesund. "We obviously taught them how to drink."

Philippe, a smiling Bordeaux who had bought his small son Timothee along for the screening, put his finger on it. "They know how to have such a good time without harming anyone," he said. "Thank God we didn't end up with the English."

Computer bug delay 'will put lives at risk'

Lucy Ward Political Correspondent

LIVES will be threatened and public health will be at risk if local authorities and health trusts do not take urgent action to tackle the millennium bug, according to the fullest study yet of the impact of computer breakdown on public services.

A report by the Audit Commission, published today with fewer than 400 working days to go before 2000, finds every category of council and NHS trust has fallen significantly behind schedule in preparing for the date change. According to the study, A Stitch in Time, local government needs to take urgent action if councils are to avoid crises — including a failure of communication in the emergency services and the wiping out of child protection registers.

Benefit payments could also be disrupted if computers are unable to assess correct entitlement, and traffic lights may stop working, causing chaos.

Meanwhile, hospitals face the prospect of malfunctioning medical equipment and shortages of supplies if more is not done to address the problem.

Despite a growing recognition that slow progress means attention must shift to managing the effects of computer breakdown as well as attempting to prevent it, fewer than one in 10 authorities and trusts has developed contingency plans to ensure vital services continue if systems or utility supplies fail, the study found.

Failure to solve the problems could leave the organisations — effectively the public purse — open to costly lawsuits for injuries or losses caused by failure of systems.

The study, based on progress reports on the preparations for 2000 by 350 authorities and trusts, is the latest and most comprehensive in a series of calls for swifter action to fend off widespread crisis at the turn of the millennium, when many computers will fail to distinguish 2000 from 1900 as the year



Hospital equipment could fail because of the millennium bug. But NHS trusts have fallen behind schedule DAVID MANNELL

date changes to 00. Earlier this month, Don Cruickshank, chairman of the Government's Action 2000 Campaign, warned that money would have to be diverted from patient care to prevent the bug disrupting

the NHS, and revealed the water industry is trailing behind other utilities in preparing its systems.

The Government has urged local government, the health service and businesses to take action, and in March an-

nounced a further £17 million to offer advice and help to small business. But public services have been told they must find the cash for making all systems "2000 compliant" from existing resources.

Today's study finds that the

final cost of tackling the bug is still unknown. The Local Government Association yesterday said authorities had budgeted to spend \$81 million this year on the problem "which could have gone to fund frontline services".

News in brief

Firm 'found women difficult'

A \$200,000-a-year saleswoman was continually passed over for promotion because her boss "found women difficult to deal with", an industrial tribunal in Croydon, south London, was told yesterday. Caroline Olds, aged 34, said she made millions for Computacenter during nine years but never made it above the position of accounts manager.

Ms Olds, who has already won a case for unfair dismissal, is now claiming sexual discrimination and demanding more than \$500,000 in compensation for loss of earnings. Ms Olds, who is unemployed and lives in Wapping, east London, also seeks compensation for breach of contract and unlawful deduction of wages from Britain's biggest computer supplier.

Ms Olds is claiming shares worth \$332,000 from when the company was floated last month, and could be awarded a total of \$1 million. The hearing continues today.

Son to be allowed to die

A MOTHER'S request for treatment to be withdrawn from her accident victim son so that he could die with dignity after seven years in a "persistent vegetative state" was granted yesterday by a High Court judge.

The mother said her 24-year-old son, MM, "a brilliant student and fine athlete" was now in a "hopeless state". The boy suffered brain damage at the age of 16 after being struck by a motor vehicle. She said in a sworn statement that she had known for some time there was nothing she could do to enrich his life. "He needs to die."

Judge Sir Stephen Brown, president of the High Court Family Division, made a declaration that it was now lawful to withdraw treatment, nutrition and hydration to allow MM to die.

TV remembers Diana

THE BBC revealed yesterday that Diana, Princess of Wales, is to be the subject of hours of coverage in the run up to the first anniversary of her death.

In a 45-minute television documentary, Diana: My Sister the Princess, the BBC's Earl Spencer says: "I find it very difficult to talk about Diana sometimes and I find the smallest thing will set me off crying." The documentary, made by his personal friend, former Granada TV colleague Paula Telford, fuels suspicion that it may be a PR job for Althorp, the family home, which is being opened to the public a few days after next week's screening.

The BBC is also showing live coverage of the tribute concert to Diana at Althorp on June 27, a special edition of Omnibus, and Heart of the Matter returns to Angola to examine what difference Diana made to the anti-landmines crusade. — Luke Harding

HIV hits young

ABOUT half of HIV-infected Britons are under the age of 25, a Fabian Society report claims today. It says society is failing to prepare young people to manage their sexual health and blames inadequate sex education, poor access to confidential advice, and a lack of openness about sexual issues.

Garlic myth

PEOPLE who munch garlic can no longer defend the anti-social aspects of their habit on health grounds, Heimer Bechtold and colleagues from the University of Bonn in Germany revealed in the Journal of the American Medical Association yesterday that the notion that it combats heart disease was a modern myth.

Fashion defends its use of 'junkie' image

Waifs are old hat, police chiefs hear, and the dirty sink scene is a cliché. Duncan Campbell reports

THE fashion industry should not be blamed for encouraging "heroin chic", police chiefs were told at their annual drugs conference yesterday.

And people would rather see scrappy 19-year-old models than wholesome thirty-somethings when they read the fashion press.

Police were also told by the record producer Sir George Martin that music companies should not sign performers who take drugs and that record producers should ask themselves whether their

profits are more important than the future of Britain's youth.

Alexandra Shulman, the editor of Vogue, defended the fashion press from suggestions that they were promoting a drugged-out, anorexic look. She told the Association of Chief Police Officers in Leicestershire that she had banned photographs of models in rooms with styrofoam cups, over-filled ashtrays and dirty sinks because such pictures of the "junkie's lair" had become a cliché.

"Grunge-chic allows a gan-

eration of young women to look young again," she said, rather than looking like a younger version of their mothers, and this, not the association with drugs, is the reason for choosing such an image.

Slim models were nothing new, she said, citing Penelope Tree and Twiggy, who came to prominence in the sixties.

President Clinton's attack on "heroin chic" in America last year created the idea that the fashion industry condoned drug taking. This was not the case, said Ms Shulman, although she admitted some models did take drugs and Vogue had occasionally had to tell agencies they would not work with their models until they received treatment. But she said there

was nothing sinister about photographs of Kate Moss, which had been criticised in the media, or the "surly young people" in the Calvin Klein perfume advertisement.

She said there was just as much drug taking on the trading floors of the City and in the music and film industry. "To what degree should we be blamed for what is a problem in society?" she said.

Sir George Martin, who produced the Beatles records, suggested that music companies should refuse to sign new artists if they were known to be addicted.

"I can hear some record company executives say 'you must be out of your mind, you would ruin us,'" he told the conference. "What's more important? Is it the future of the

country, the future of the youth, or the bottom line?"

Sir George said that suggestions that Sergeant Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band, the 1967 Beatles album, was about hallucinatory drugs were wrong. At the time the BBC banned the song A Day in the Life because it included the words "I'd love to turn you on."

He said that if drugs really assisted creativity, why had there been nothing recently as good as such songs as Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds which the Beatles recorded 30 years ago.

Saying that John Lennon had once offered him an "upper" because he looked tired, he said that "sheer genius" and not drugs was responsible for the Beatles

creativity, and he called on successful artists to lead the way in de-glamorising drugs.

Eric Clapton and Pete Townshend had already spoken out against drugs, he said.

Later, Alan McGee, the head of Creation who signed Oasis, said: "It's all very well for Sir George Martin to pontificate about today's record companies not signing drug users, but has he forgotten that The Beatles, the group with whom he is most associated, were users of LSD, cannabis and allegedly in John Lennon's case, heroin?"

"When he goes home to his mansion, he should think about who paid for it and what state they were in when they recorded the records that made him rich and famous."

The Guardian
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The Guardian Wednesday June 17 1998

CARDIFF SUMMIT 5

PM calls for 'transparent' pay to end scandal □ US president makes phone call to sway Greeks

Blair flays MEPs' gravy train

Stephen Bates
in Strasbourg

TONY Blair waded into the most controversial issue affecting the European Parliament yesterday when he attacked the long-running scandal of MEPs' allowances, which can net assiduous or inventive Euro-MEPs well over £100,000 a year above their salaries.

reputation of the European institutions that we have an open, fair and transparent way of remuneration," he said.

Under the parliament's complex procedures, MEPs are paid at the same rate as MPs in their national parliaments, which means some receive up to five times as much as colleagues sitting next to them. Italians get paid the best — the equivalent of £80,000 a year — while Greeks have to struggle along on about £15,000. British MEPs get the Westminster rate of £25,000.

Environment ministers struggle to reach binding deal on greenhouse gas emissions

EUROPE'S environment ministers were last night locked in protracted wrangling in Luxembourg over national targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions, writes Stephen Bates.

At issue was how great a reduction each of the 15 EU member states would be prepared to accept as their contribution to the overall European commitment to an 8 per cent drop from 1990 emission levels by 2012, agreed at last year's Kyoto summit.

The most crucial issue was the prospect that the targets would be legally binding, opening the likelihood of higher fuel taxes for consumers and increased costs in energy saving measures.

Discussions started over dinner on Monday evening, and were originally intended to be concluded through bilateral meetings late yesterday afternoon.

With Britain holding the EU presidency, negotiations were being led by Michael Meacher, the environment minister — in the chair for the meeting — with John Prescott alongside, leading the British delegation.

Gil-Robles has suggested it should be equivalent to a middle-ranking EU civil servant, in order to reduce the need for topping up through perks.

Unfortunately that would amount to about £80,000 a year — double the current average. The amount may be too much for member states to swallow, despite their rhetoric.

A report drawn up by David Martin, a Scottish Labour MEP and one of the parliament's vice-presidents, proposes a new joint statute laying down set conditions for pay and allowances, within a legal framework and also a statement of members' privileges. It is due to go before the next summit of EU leaders in Vienna in December.

Leader comment, page 9

Mandela wins hearts and minds in fractious Cardiff

Martin Walker hears the South African president thank his staunch supporters

IT TAKES a special kind of good-humoured nerve to get away with teaching Welsh children how to sing Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star and then to dance a statey jitterbug to a Welsh choir in full voice.

But then Nelson Mandela's special sense of rhythm had already stolen the Cardiff show, a guest of honour in his trademark florid shirt who outdrew and outshone the 15 men in suits who ran Europe.



Nelson Mandela accompanied by Tony Blair on a walkabout in Cardiff, where the South African president was made a freeman of the city

Joining his name on the scroll of Cardiff's Freeman of the City to David Lloyd George, Winston Churchill and Princess DI, who also all knew a thing about winning hearts, Nelson Mandela had already done more to block traffic and rally crowds than all the EU leaders and the Queen combined. The people of Cardiff cheered for more.

"We are interested in the EU summit and proud to be the host city — but we are inspired by your visit," said the Lib Dem opposition leader on Cardiff Council, Jenny Randerson. "You are the moral leader of the world today."

It was not a New Labour occasion. The one man Mr Mandela singled out to honour in his speech of thanks was a veteran Communist of the Welsh valleys, Bert Pierce, a stalwart of the Anti-Apartheid Movement.

Mr Hain had brought his parents to yesterday's show. They had known Mr Mandela when they ran the Pretoria Liberal Party in the 1950s, and Mr Hain's mother had taken food to

stop the South African cricket tour, walked with Mr Mandela down the line of schoolchildren and choirs and old militants.

Welsh unions were one of the few bulwarks of support when most governments were doing business as usual with South Africa.

up a separate podium for the speech by Welsh Minister Ron Davies. Cardiff council leader Russell Goodway would not even share the same stage with the figurehead of London's oppression of Cyprus if the Greeks compromised.

Clinton plea to end Turkey veto

Martin Walker and Michael White in Cardiff

AT TONY Blair's request, President Bill Clinton made a 1.30am phone call yesterday morning to Greek prime minister, Costas Simitis, in a bid to get Greece to lift its block on Turkey's application to join the European Union. It was only partly successful.

With the arrival of Russian-built anti-aircraft missiles in Cyprus looming, which Turkey has vowed to destroy with pre-emptive military strikes, Mr Clinton offered to use his influence with Turkey over Cyprus if the Greeks compromised.

After a night of haggling an uneasy deal was reached. Mr Simitis managed to block Britain's attempt to get the budgetary authority to pay the £22m taken over to Turkey under the Customs agreement already reached.

But British officials believe they secured just enough concessions from the Greeks to offer the Turks a way of resuming talks with the EU, virtually broken off after last December's EU summit. The EU is now committed to "a strategy to prepare Turkey for membership", even though Greece vetoed British efforts to have Turkey described as "the 12th applicant" in the enlargement process.

Balancing act in the rise and rise of neo-nation states

Analysis

Martin Walker

CHARLES de Gaulle and Margaret Thatcher would have enjoyed the Cardiff summit. These twin advocates of a Europe of nation states jealously guarding their traditional grandeur and their constitutional prerogatives against the federalist tide could claim to have won the argument.

from Brussels to national and local levels. They all now echo Tony Blair in talking of a Europe that moves "closer to its people". And what they all seem to mean is strengthening the role of national governments.

The French president, Jacques Chirac, and German Chancellor, Helmut Kohl, signalled this trend with their joint letter to Mr Blair on the eve of the summit, stressing that "it cannot be the goal of European policy to establish a central Europe state".

that it answers. There is a clear tendency for those personally engaged in Europe to go native. There is also a prospect that deputies entrusted with such Euro-authority

integration the EU has so far undertaken, the surrender by 11 nations (so far) of their sovereignty over all monetary authority to the unelected European Central Bank.

answered is: what kind of nation-state authority is at issue? For Mr Kohl and Mr Chirac, this new nationalism is in large part defensive, a reaction against what they see as the overweening power of Brussels in fining and punishing and blocking the merger plans of big German corporations, or imposing EU free market rules on French banks.

"There are areas where we can co-operate and even integrate more closely together — crime, tackling unemployment, the environment and foreign policy", Mr Blair told Austrian TV at Cardiff. "But there are other areas where people don't want Europe going into every aspect of national life and where people want to be clear that we have a Europe of nation states where people want their own identity". The trick will be "to work out the balance".

So it is an open question whether Margaret Thatcher will have most cause to rejoice over the new nation-state rhetoric of Cardiff — or whether the real beneficiary will be the Scottish National Party's Alex Salmond.

A BALLET ABOUT DESIRE AND OBSESSION. IF YOU DON'T BELIEVE US, TRY LEAVING HALFWAY THROUGH.

'CHEATING' (being seduced) World premiere by Ashley Page. Programme also includes 'The Duke's Progress' by Ninette de Valois and 'Birthday Offering' by Frederick Ashton.

The Royal Ballet at the Barbican, June 15th - 20th. Tickets from £9.

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The words Jedem das Seine ('to each his own') over the entrance to the former Nazi concentration camp at Buchenwald. A poster campaign by Nokia in Germany which unwittingly used the same slogan (below) has been abandoned after complaints by Jewish groups. PHOTOGRAPH BY JENS MEYERJAN/BAUER

Bad connection for mobile phone company as new slogan evokes memories of the Holocaust

Denis Staunton in Berlin

THE mobile telephone manufacturer Nokia stopped a huge poster campaign in Germany yesterday after discovering that its advertising slogan was the same as the motto over the gates of the Buchenwald concentration camp.

The Finnish company removed posters advertising the Nokia 5100 with the words "Jedem das Seine" (to each his own) from 3,000 sites all over Germany.

The move followed a complaint from the American Jewish Congress (AJC), whose Berlin headquarters overlooks a fence surrounding the site of a planned memorial to the victims of the Holocaust.

"I refuse to have to look at this poster every day. The slogan mocks the victims," an AJC spokeswoman, Wendy Kline, said. More than 56,000 people were murdered in Buchenwald between 1937 and 1945, while about 240,000 inmates were forced to work as slaves in the armaments industry.

Nokia also agreed to pulp thousands of brochures for the 5100 model.

"The question of cost is entirely secondary to us. That is not an issue in this case," a Nokia spokesman, Tapio Hedman, said.

German advertisers are careful to avoid echoes of the Nazi era and the only comparable controversy in recent years involved a campaign for the weekly magazine Stern during the 1970s.

The word Stern means star and the campaign used the slogan "The star for..." with a number of common forenames. One of these names was Jewish and victims' groups complained that the advertisement evoked memories of the yellow stars the Nazis forced Jews to wear.

The company stopped the campaign and warned its advertising agency to be more careful.

Nokia has stopped short of sacking the Düsseldorf advertising agency responsible for its campaign, explaining that its young executives had no idea that the slogan had been used by the Nazis.

Nokia's marketing chief, Heikki Tarnavaenen, said the company felt chastened by the row and promised not to repeat the mistake. "We have learned a great deal," he said.



Magazine war over nerve gas report

Mark Tran in New York

A BATTLE has broken out between the United States' most prestigious news magazines after Newsweek attacked as incorrect reports in its competitor, Time, that the US used a deadly nerve gas in a secret mission in Laos during the Vietnam war.

A week after Time published its explosive story in a joint report with the cable TV network CNN, Newsweek has come out with its own report, seeking to debunk the exposé. "It's all lies," Newsweek quotes Eugene McCarthy, the army captain who led the raid, code-named Tailwind.

As Newsweek traded blows with CNN and Time, CNN's long-time military adviser, retired air force Major-General Perry Smith, resigned in protest at what he called major inaccuracies in the Tailwind story by one of CNN's leading correspondents, Peter Arnett, who covered the Vietnam war for Associated Press.

General Smith was angry that he was not consulted about the CNN report, aired two Sundays ago. He then urged the network to run a retraction about the use of nerve gas. "I had tried very hard for a week to convince top executives to do a major retraction, but to no avail," he said. "Lots of people at CNN were solidly with me on this, but not the top bosses and the team that put that terrible special together."

The report is of more than historical interest. Washington has never admitted to the use of nerve gas in combat. If it did, its moral authority would

be severely undermined. This year the US was on the brink of bombing Iraq to punish its refusal to grant access to United Nations weapons inspectors tracking Baghdad's weapons of mass destruction.

The magazine regularly says Iraq is the only country to have used chemical weapons in battle. The US has yet to ratify the Geneva Protocol banning the use of chemical weapons.

In their story, CNN and Time reported that Operation Tailwind, led by 16 US commandos and backed by Montagnard tribesmen, was designed to kill American defectors.

In the most sensational allegations, CNN and Time said that during the raid, US forces used sarin — the lethal gas used in the 1995 Tokyo subway attack that killed a dozen people. The gas was dropped before the Americans went in and to cover their retreat.

Newsweek says gas canisters were dropped on the village during the September 1970 attack, but the gas was ordinary riot-control gas sometimes used on helicopter rescue missions to confuse enemy gunners.

The magazine cites Art Bishop, one of two US pilots who bombed the enemy, who wrote in his journal the next day that his payload was tear gas. The allegation of sarin gas, he told Newsweek, is a "lot of nonsense."

The magazine also questions the credibility of Lieutenant Robert Van Buskirk, a platoon commander during Operation Tailwind and one of the key sources for CNN and Time, both owned by Time Warner. Newsweek reports that Mr Van Buskirk recalled one of

the most dramatic incidents — his claim he killed two defectors in a tunnel with a white phosphorus grenade — after having forgotten it for 24 years.

Mr Van Buskirk, now a prison warden, told Newsweek that he remembered the fight in the tunnel during a five-hour interview with a CNN producer, April Oliver. He told the magazine that he had repressed the memory on Easter Sunday, 1974, when he was in a German prison on charges of selling weapons to a terrorist gang. The charges were dropped.

Mr Van Buskirk's credibility question has also been called into question by another Special Forces veteran, Tom Marzullo, said Mr Van Buskirk wrote a book in 1983 called Operation Tailwind, in which he made no mention of the defectors or of sarin.

CNN yesterday stuck by its report, saying that its team had talked to 200 people up and down the chain of command for eight months, while Newsweek had spent only three days on the story.

Newsweek's dismissal of the report broken by CNN and Time was "premature" said Steve Haworth, a CNN official. The defence secretary, William Cohen, has called for an investigation following the CNN/Time report.

Mitterrand's son linked to oil firm scandal

Paul Webster in Paris

JEAN-CHRISTOPHE Mitterrand, son of the late president François Mitterrand, confirmed yesterday that he had been paid regular amounts of money by a Swiss consultancy, but said he was unaware that the firm was financed by France's nationalised oil company, Elf. Elf is under investigation for corruption, particularly over deals in Africa, where the president's son, a former journalist, was his father's special envoy. Jean-Christophe Mitterrand said many people were trying to link him to a scandal that "smells very bad in every sense of the word."

Inquiries into Elf began before François Mitterrand died two years ago, but it has since been revealed that the company was used to channel secret funds from the president's office to ensure foreign contracts or make personal payments to African leaders.

Those being questioned about Elf's affairs include a former foreign minister, Roland Dumas, and a former Elf chairman, Loïc Le Floch-Prigent.

Jean-Christophe Mitterrand's allegation that there was political pressure to investigate his business affairs was a reference to suspicions that the scandal is being used to undermine his father's political legacy.

But several members of the rightwing opposition, including staff of the Gaullist former interior minister, Charles Pasqua, are also sus-

pected of fraud, as are at least 40 other politicians and businessmen who dealt with the oil company.

In response to press disclosure that he received a salary of about \$3,000 a month from a Swiss foundation called Crea for two years from 1992, Mr Mitterrand said he accepted a consultancy after he left the presidential office without another job. The money was paid directly into a Swiss account — but he was unaware that the foundation was an Elf subsidiary.

Mr Mitterrand, now a self-employed consultant, said he was not a friend of anyone under investigation except for Mr Dumas.

The former foreign minister and close friend of François Mitterrand is being held on bail while examining magistrates question him on whether payments into a Swiss bank account were linked to a decision to sell frigates to Taiwan despite objections from China.

"I am sad about what is happening to Mr Dumas," Mr Mitterrand said. "If everything in the newspapers is true then it smells like a sewer but the game between justice and the press also smells very bad. It has become very dangerous."

Patrick Gantes, the chief of Crea in Geneva, said Mr Mitterrand's job was not an indirect method of providing him with finance after he left his father's entourage. The former African envoy had real influence as a consultant, opening up profitable contacts with Russia and Palestine, he said.

James Meek in Moscow

THE Yugoslavian president, Slobodan Milosevic, called NATO's bluff yesterday by refusing to withdraw his troops from Kosovo.

Threatened with Western military intervention if Serbian forces do not stop their ruthless campaign against villages thought to harbour ethnic Albanian partisans, Mr Milosevic made a few concessions after talks with Boris Yeltsin in the Kremlin.

He promised to negotiate with Kosovo's ethnic Albanian political leader, Ibrahim Rugova. He also pledged to allow diplomats and international organisations — though not journalists — access to the province, and to enable refugees to return.

But he ignored the key demands of the six-nation Contact Group, which includes Russia — an end to all actions by Serbian security forces against civilians and their withdrawal from Kosovo.

He clearly felt that NATO would never find the consensus to mount its first offensive against another country.

Madeline Albright, the United States secretary of state, reacted coolly to the talks. She said: "There was some progress but Mr Milosevic did not meet the primary points that the Contact Group raised."

Mrs Albright also reiterated that "all options are on the table", including military force, if Mr Milosevic did not end repression and ethnic cleansing in Kosovo.

The four major players in any military action — the

US, Britain, Germany and France — must now decide how to respond to Mr Milosevic's challenge in the wake of Mr Yeltsin's failure to convince him to yield.

Mr Milosevic denied accusations of ethnic cleansing and civilian casualties in Kosovo. "There has been no kind of ethnic cleansing," he said. "The security forces declared that there had been no civilian casualties at all in the last operation."

"Terrorist groups have used several villages, expelling civilians beforehand to turn houses into fortresses. It is clear that all actions by the Serbian police were only against terrorist groups, not against civilians."

The West accuses Belgrade of using excessive force against the partisans and of attacking civilian targets.

Mr Milosevic said he would

not talk to the Albanian partisan organisation, the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA), because they were "terrorists".

Serb troops would never withdraw from Kosovo, he added. The only line referring to troop withdrawals in yesterday's nine-point declaration agreed between the Yugoslavian and Russian presidents gives Serb forces carte blanche to continue fighting until all Albanian resistance is crushed.

Serb security forces will reduce their presence outside their normal bases according to the degree to which terrorist activity ceases," it said.

Mr Yeltsin said in the morning that the talks had been difficult and promised the problem would be solved. It was not clear whether the Russian foreign minister Yevgeny Primakov failed to convince Mr Milosevic to withdraw troops from Kosovo.

He may not have tried, most Russian policymakers sympathise with the Serbs in Kosovo, seeing their own relative autonomy reflected in the rebel province. Mr Primakov may also believe that NATO does not have the stomach for intervention without UN backing.

Mr Primakov knew yesterday's declaration would not satisfy other members of the Contact Group, but nevertheless presented it as a major step.

"The Russian side considers this document to be very important," he said. "It's fixed the position of Yugoslavia on issues of principle. We believe it opens a real opportunity to regulate the situation and the ball is now, to a great extent, in the court of the Kosovo Albanians."

Germany 'can take no more refugees'

Experts from Bonn are advising the UN on setting up camps to contain the families escaping from Serbian violence, reports Helena Smith in Tropoje

IN THE Cursed Mountains of high Albania, German officials are working overtime to ensure that thousands of refugees who have fled the violence in Kosovo, stay put.

As the crisis in the border region escalated yesterday, with Serbian troops allegedly killing a Kosovar Albanian inside Albania, fears were mounting that as many as 20,000 refugees could pour into the highlands.

Refugees said yesterday two Yugoslav army helicopters opened fire on camps on a mountain near the border, killing two people and sending dozens fleeing towards the border.

In the past fortnight about 12,000 have made the treacherous journey over the border from Kosovo. Military strategists and experts sent by Bonn say they will do whatever it takes to keep them there.

Germany has taken in more refugees from Yugoslavia than any other European country and it is seen that once they get there they never want to leave," a German army officer said in Bajram Curri, where most of the refugees have been assimilated.

"No German politician will say it openly but with the country's economic problems and high unemployment rate, they would rather they stay put."

This week the body upgraded its mission, establishing a new office in Kukës as part of a new contingency plan.

Bonn has spent about 25.2 billion on aid for as many as 350,000 refugees from the Bosnian war. Bosnians in Germany receive substantial monthly benefits.

About 180,000 ethnic Albanian Kosovars have moved to Germany in the nine years since the Yugoslav leader, Slobodan Milosevic, stripped the region of its autonomous status. Many are believed to be bankrolling the separatist Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA), which smuggles arms and fighters across the border from Albania.

"A lot of that money comes from the Albanian mafia, which controls drugs and prostitution rackets in Frankfurt and Hamburg," a German diplomat in Tirana said.

With a view to establishing camps along the 80-mile border, the Germans have begun providing technical know-how and aid to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. A UNHCR official said: "Alarm bells have started to ring with the sudden surge of refugees entering Albania further south in a desperate bid to flee Serbian attempts to create a corridor south along the frontier."

But the Albanian government fears the influx of more refugees could cause the volatile northern region to explode if camps are not set up soon.

Mohammed Ibrahim of the UNHCR said: "It is our belief that, having cleansed the north-eastern part of the border area, the Serbs will try to extend the buffer zone along the entire frontier. It's the only way they can effectively cut off KLA supply routes."

Western officials believe it is a matter of weeks before the Serbs aim their guns at Gjakova, the border town six miles inside Kosovo, where about 60,000 ethnic Albanians have converged.

"If Gjakova goes, and we know it is already surrounded by Serb forces, it will be another Vukovar," Bill Foxton at the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) said, recalling the Croat town in eastern Slavonia where he started the Yugoslav conflict in 1991.

He said refugees' accounts of an alleged Serbian detention camp in the village of Decani had prompted the OSCE to demand an international investigation.

"We've had nine separate, uncorroborated reports of 220 men being held in a camp there," he said.

Thus far the UNHCR has resisted placing refugees in tent cities for fear of KLA warriors using them as training sites and perhaps even picking out human shields. Instead most of the Kosovars have been welcomed as "blood brothers" into the homes of local people, who are often too poor to feed them.

But the Albanian government fears the influx of more refugees could cause the volatile northern region to explode if camps are not set up soon.

High cost of unification fraud

Reuters in Bonn

FRAUD and other economic crimes linked to Germany's reunification in 1990 cost the country between DM3 billion (£1 billion) and DM10 billion, a parliamentary committee estimated in a report published yesterday.

Social Democrat MP Volker Neumann, chairman of a committee set up to examine the assets of the former communist East Germany, said it was not possible to come up with a more precise figure.

Many cases of alleged wrongdoing may never be solved — the legal window for prosecution will close on October 2, 2000.

East Berlin secret police colonel Alexander Schalk-Goldkowsky, who was convicted of smuggling arms and currencies. This year two bankers were fined a total of DM120,000 in the case.

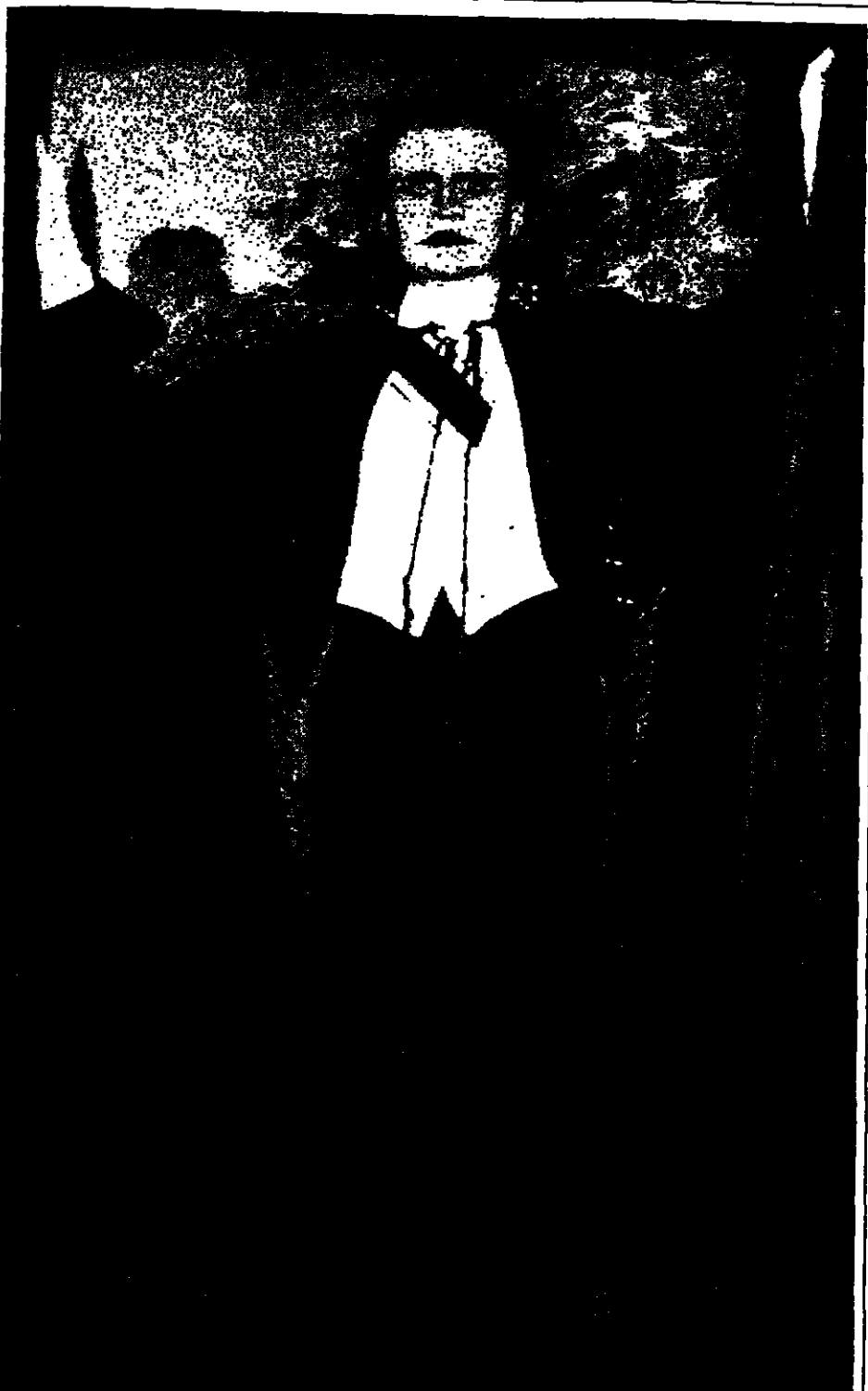
Other cases were linked to Western companies owned by East Germany through its

Commercial Co-ordination department, headed by Schalk-Goldkowsky, which had links to the Stasi secret police.

Several were tied to formerly state-owned East German firms which were privatised after reunification by the Treuhänder agency.



سكيا من الامل



Premiere player... Butler took the lead in the first London stage production of *Dracula*

Ivan Butler

Heart of darkness

IVAN BUTLER, who has died aged 89, was the last surviving actor from the first London stage production of *Dracula*. Aged 20, he played Lord Godalming, understudied Dracula; subsequently played every other male part, including the count — and also produced the play many times.

Butler was born the son of a naval cartoonist in Heston, Cheshire, and was educated at St Edward's School, Oxford, where Laurence Olivier was two years his senior. In a school production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Ivan, being tall and willowy, played Helena "the painted may-pole" while Olivier stole the show as Puck. He went on to study acting at the Central School of Speech and Drama.

As a pacifist, he spent the second world war as an air raid warden in Pimlico, where he met and married Hilda Martin, a chemist. The marriage was to last 57 years.

His first play, *To Thine Own Self*, was staged at Bristol's Little Theatre five weeks after the birth of their only son in 1948, and in the early 1950s he had several plays produced for radio and television. One, *The Man Who Faced Facts*, was considered very controversial and the BBC had the largest correspondence concerning any play up to that time.

In the mid-1950s, Butler became resident producer of weekly repertory at the Palace Theatre, Watford, acting in 232 plays and producing more than 300. A decade later, a vivid dream provided the inspiration for a work written in collaboration with Philip King and Falkland Cary, which together with the antics of Jimmy Edwards and Eric Sykes, became the long-running farce *Big Bad Mouse*.

After a period of indexing and proof reading for a number of publishers (he was an active member of the Society of Indexers), Butler's interest in films led him to become a member of the Critics' Circle as film critic for *What's On in London* (1970-76). Films and Filming (1981-1982) and the film book reviewer for the *Film Review Annual* from 1988 until 1995.

He started writing books on theatre and film in his sixties, editing the British edition of *The Complete Play Production Handbook* in 1976 and contributing a new section on stage lighting and a revised bibliography. He was a play reader and editor for Samuel French Ltd and also wrote production notes on plays, including some by Arnold Wesker and John Osborne.

Butler's first film books were *The Horror Film* (1967), *Religion in the Cinema* (1968)

and *The Cinema of Roman Polanski* (1970). Referring to *The Horror Film* he said it "is more than just a study of the horror film but rather a consideration of the use of horror, the power to shock or terrify, in the cinema as a whole".

For *The Making of Feature Films: A Guide* (1971), a textbook for film colleges, Butler interviewed leading directors, actors and technical experts from every part of the industry. This was followed by *To Encourage the Art of the Film: The Story of the British Film Institute* (1972), *Cinema in Britain: An Illustrated Survey* (1973), *The War Film* (1974), and *Silent Magic: Reminiscences of the Silent Cinema* written in 1987 when he was 80.

Always interested in the darker side of the human psyche, Butler entered the world of criminology and wrote *Murderers of London and Murderers of England* in quick succession in 1973. These were followed by *The Trials of Brian Donohue* in 1976 and an essay on the "definitive solution" of the Jack the Ripper murders published in the *Literary Review*.

He is survived by his wife, Hilda Butler, and two grandsons.

Hilda Butler
Ivan Butler, actor, playwright and writer, born April 8, 1909; died May 17, 1998

A Country Diary

CHILDREN: In between the downpours, I've been out collecting records for the new *Herfordshire Flora*, now in its last year of field research. A small romantic voice inside me insists that this is no way to celebrate the ornments of the earth, that it reduces them to scientific trophies, numbers on score-sheet. But that is not how things work out. Today I've tramped up to Heathen Grove, a tangle of chalk scrub and ancient woodland in which I've found some remarkable species over the years, way outside their range. The round flower-heads of sardule seem luminous in the gloom. The fading spikes of bugle have the blue glimmer of a low gas flame. Twayblade shoots just over the blanket of dog's mercury. Suddenly, out of the corner of my eye, I see a colony of herb paris near a badger sett. The flowers are past their best, but I am so astonished I shout out loud, not just at their extraordinary orb-like structure, but because I'm sure they haven't been seen in this corner of the hills for generations. Back home I'm thrilled to read that Augustus Smith found them on this same estate in the 1840s. That is the real point of records: over the centuries they transcend botanical geography and become small poems of survival.

RICHARD MABEY

Professor R J G Savage

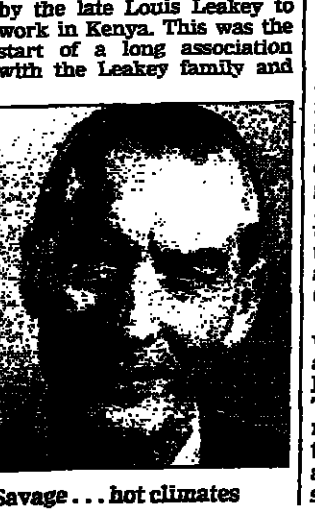
All creatures great and small

PROFESSOR R J G "Bob" Savage, who has died of cancer aged 70, was a leading authority on the evolution of mammals and an enthusiast for garden history. Born in Belfast, he read zoology and geology at Queen's University before studying for his doctorate on the extinct otter, *potamotherium*, at University College, London, where he became professor of vertebrate paleontology in 1992. He had held a tenured post for 38 years, giving him a stable background for his researches.

Evolution during the tertiary era produced various, to our eyes, weird and wonderful mammals, and Bob's research career was devoted to them. In 1937, he joined the British Expedition to a geologist, spending six

months in the Sahara. This gave him a taste for work in hot climates, and most summers in the 1940s he would disappear in his Land-Rover to North Africa or the Middle East to collect fossil mammals, visiting Libya no less than five times. Many of these fossils were of large animals and the results of his collecting were measured by the ton, eventually necessitating a special bone store at Bristol University.

In 1955 he had been invited by the late Louis Leakey to work in Kenya. This was the start of a long association with the Leakey family and



Savage... hot climates

their research on early hominids and the tertiary history of the Rift Valley. Besides his research on the Leakeys, Bob had applied to fossil mammals. Bob was an excellent teacher and supervisor. His special achievement was the joint honours school in geology and zoology at Bristol, which he founded in 1969 and tutored for many years. Graduates from this course, together with his research students, are to be found in universities and museums all over the world. Bob was a sociable man and a good companion, equally at home with his students or among the great and the good.

In 1969 he married Shirley Coryndon, whom he knew through his work in Kenya. It was a meeting of minds; Shirley was an expert on fossil hippopotamuses. For a few years together they kept a handsome house in Clifton, Bristol, until Shirley died of cancer in 1976, leaving him two step-daughters to whom he was devoted.

Desmond Donovan
Robert Joseph Gay Savage, geologist, born July 2, 1927; died May 9, 1998

Tony Douglas

TONY Douglas, who has died aged 44, was a former editor of the first weekly newspaper to come out of Britain's Caribbean community. Born in St Catherine, Jamaica, he came to England at the age of 11 and attended North London College, where he became involved in newspapers. His father had wanted him to go to university but he wanted to be a journalist.

Douglas got a job at West-India World whilst still a teenager. He was the pivotal part of an enthusiastic team, appointed by the islands and from Britain, and an opportunity for West Indians in business, promotion and sport to advertise and chart their progress.

After All, who took over when Douglas returned to the Caribbean in 1973, adopted a more high-profile role for the newspaper. His deputy, Russell Pierre, who died last year, kept the wheels turning with Douglas and photogra-

pher Caudley George, and after All was ousted in 1978, they returned to the newspaper to its former function. Douglas took over as editor when Pierre himself departed.

In his hard-hitting, ostensibly anonymous column, the Gaffer, Tony could hurt — and often did. Yet he was also his heartiest and most generous. Perhaps he loved humour too much. The majority of his comments were "in" jokes for his colleagues.

He held centre stage at his editorial desk at West Green Road, Tottenham, while anyone with a story to tell, or to hear, dropped in. The World was the hub of the community it served in a way greater than that achieved by any of its competitors then or since. Nevertheless, competitors such as the Voice seemed more modern and the World folded in 1985.

After Douglas left the paper, he went into property. But it was as a pioneering editor that he will be remembered. He leaves his wife and three daughters.

Clayton Goodwin
Anthony Douglas, journalist, born December 5, 1953; died May 19, 1998

CORRECTIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS

CORRECTIONS to a correction, Page 16, yesterday: the Queen of Denmark does not lack Zealand and Jutland. Denmark's peninsular mainland. The bridge spans the Great Belt and links Zealand and the island of Funen. Funen is connected to Jutland by a railway bridge, built about 25 years ago, across the Little Belt. The East Bridge, which will connect Zealand and Sweden, is a planned project for which there is no starting date. We also got the name of the Queen of Denmark wrong in yesterday's correction. It is Margrethe, not Margarethe.

IN A panel accompanying a

Birthdays

Sir Michael Caine, patron, Booker prize, 71; Richard Charkin, chief executive, Macmillan, 49; Fernon Coaker, Labour MP, 45; David Crausby, Labour MP, 52; Prof John Craven, economist, vice-chancellor, Portsmouth University, 48; Margaret Crossland, biographer and translator, 76; Sir Edward Dewart, conductor, 74; Jennifer Durrant, artist, 56; Ivan Henderson, Labour MP, 40; Damien Hirst, artist, 33; Prof Felicity Huntingford, zoologist, 50; Derek Ibbotson, author, 68; Ken Livingstone, Labour MP, 53; Ken Leach, television and film director, 62; Phyllida Lloyd, theatre director, 41; Barry Manilow, singer, 52; Sir Peter Michael, chairman, Classic FM, 60; Prof Terence Mitchell, artistic antiquarian, 58; Diane Modahl, athlete, 32; Estelle Morris, MP, minister for school standards, 46; Steve Rhodes, cricketer, 34; Tony Roche, tennis coach, 53; Prof Karol Sikora, oncologist, 50; Prof Sir Alan Walters, economist, 72.

Death Notices

ANNOUNCEMENT: Harry (Mick) Evering, Professor of Education, University of Sheffield, died suddenly and peacefully in hospital on 15th June 1998 at Golden Green Crematorium, West Chapel on Friday June 19th at 11.30am. Flowers and enquiries to: Leventon & Sons, 121 Farnborough Hill, New 408, Tel: 0171 628 4221. 870 place your announcement telephone 0171 73 4247 or fax 0171 73 4247 between 9am and 5pm Mon-Fri.

report on page 3, June 13, headed, A traditional tale of Teddy Hall, we said that Sir Stephen Turner was a Conservative. He isn't. In the report itself St Edmund Hall was wrongly called St Edmund's Hall.

ON PAGE 21, June 9, in a report headed, W H Smith buys Europe's biggest Net bookshop, we gave the wrong figures for Internet sales in the UK. Last year's UK sales total should have read £200m; and the forecast for the year 2000 should have been £300m.

A PANEL of information accompanying an article in Guardian Travel, June 13, in

online

which Emily Barr looked forward to her travels round the world, gave the wrong co-ordinates for her starting point in London, confusing longitude and latitude. Longitude (not latitude) should have read 0.06W; and latitude 51.32N.

It is the policy of the Guardian to correct errors as soon as possible. Please quote date and page number. Readers may contact the office of the Readers' Editor by telephoning 0171 239 5859 between 11am and 5pm, Monday to Friday. Surface mail to Readers' Editor, The Guardian, 119, Farringdon Road, London EC1R 3ER. Fax: 0171 239 5897. E-mail: reader@guardian.co.uk

Every Thursday in the
The Guardian
INTERNATIONAL

Comment

Diary

Simon Bowers

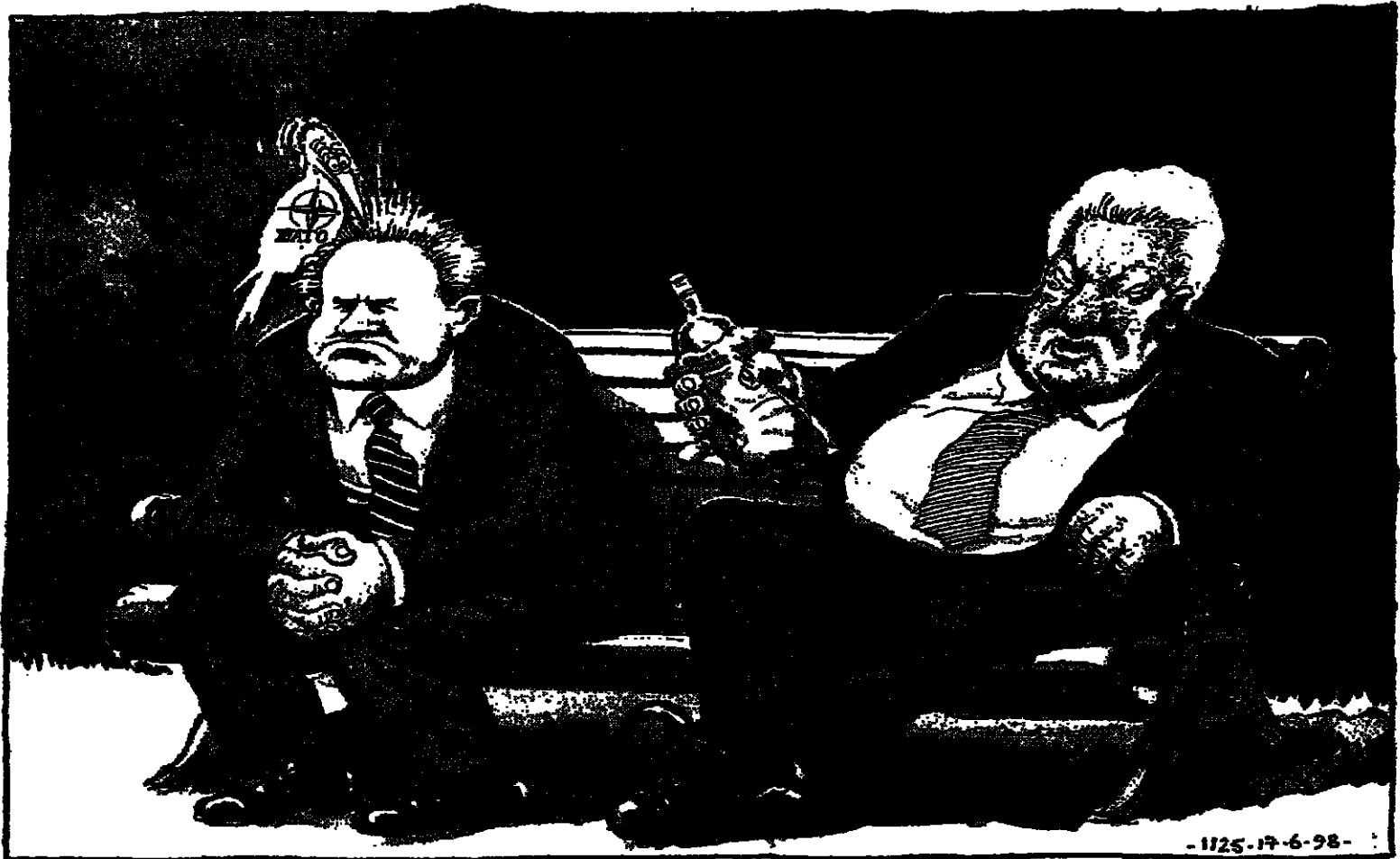
IT IS with surprise that we learn of an alternative explanation for Mirror Group chief executive David Montgomery's much vaunted journalistic Academy of Excellence. We had understood that it was a measure intended to bolster what many see as a declining craft. Academy graduates were supposed to be so accomplished that they could do the work of several lesser journalists — and were indeed required to do so as Mr Montgomery downsized slothful hacks across the Mirror Group titles. The alternative explanation is suggested by David's estranged wife Heidi Kingstone in an unpublished article she has written for the Spectator. "If you wonder why he has no trouble in paring down journalistic scale," she writes, "it simply reflects both his dislike and distrust of the hacks who make the company its money. It is also his attempt to slough off his journalistic past. To play with the big boys he must be a businessman." More searing comment from Miss Kingstone tomorrow.

A MEMO was circulated around BBC staff at Broadcasting House in Cardiff yesterday, after a minor security incident. "Will all staff please advise reception by telephone or by e-mail of expected visitors and contributors," it asks. "A quick call to reception will avoid any future delays and embarrassment." Unfortunately, William Hague and entourage were kept waiting in reception for some time until security could identify whose guest he was. "What will we do with him, the little scamp?"

FURTHER evidence of the Jesuitical hold the Labour government enjoys over younger generations has come to light. A competition recently organised by the Home Office asked 11 to 16-year-olds in Birmingham to illustrate "What the European Union Means to Me", and a spokesman said they were inundated with all manner of drawings, poems, short stories and essays. Were any of them at all euro-sceptic? "I wouldn't say there were any I would call euro-sceptic," she suggests, "but some were quite childish." (Childish? The young adults of Birmingham? I find that hard to believe.) Prisoner minister Joyce Quin judged Mark Jones's painting of a pair of clasped hands covered in EU flags the winner, and as part of the prize Mark and his mum were flown to Brussels to meet the Home Secretary. "I have won tickets to see the Spice Girls concert," said Mark. "They were good but I'd rather see Mr Straw. I met him in Birmingham in January and I think I am very lucky to be meeting him again." Hummm.

CONCERN mounts for the safety of News of the World editor Phil Hall. Last time the Diary spoke to him was about his "bad dog incident" — his free on Britain's streets exclusive. We called him, you may remember, having heard that a man pictured in the News of the World — claiming to be Derek Brady, a supposed INLA terrorist — was in fact a hoaxer. "No, that's not true," he assured us at the time. "It's actually much more serious than we thought. This guy is an international terrorist and there's more coming next week..." Our mind set at ease, we waited for the full story to unfold. Now a month later, however, we are still waiting. Persistent calls to Mr Hall's office fail to get through to him, and we suspect they are as clueless about his whereabouts as ourselves. So here's a message: if you're out there Mr Hall, please get in touch. We are concerned.

A SPART of our month-long campaign to maintain and build up the profile of free-thinking MP Andrew Mackinlay, we bring you today's fact about the great man: in the Commons five years ago he asked William Waldegrave what the Conservative government was doing about an asteroid which appeared to be heading for the earth.



Step forward Waheed Alli. You can change our nation's destiny

Jonathan Freedland



IS THERE a progressive heart in the nation that did not leap at the leaked word that Waheed Alli is heading for the House of Lords? Is there a liberal-minded citizen who did not cheer at the prospect of an Asian gay man, one who left school at 15, becoming the youngest life peer aged just 33? Is there a leftist worth the name who would dare stand in his way?

I would. I don't want Waheed Alli to take his seat in the Lords. I think he should refuse his peerage and take a stand on democratic principle. It hasn't happened for years — not since Michael Foot rejected moves to kick him upstairs — but if Alli is all his many admirers say he is, the coming man of the coming era, then now is his moment to make a difference. It goes without saying that he's just the kind of person who should have a place in Britain's second chamber. Enterprising enough to have spurned the careers adviser who told him he should look for a job on the buses, he is creative, driven and, by all accounts, still moved by a sincere concern for those born at the bottom of the heap. As the boss of Planet 24, he put the Big Breakfast on television, starts his day at 4.30 am and apparently has a swing suspended above his indoor swimming pool, just like the one Joan Collins had in the Stud. He sounds like a great guy. And, let's face it, it would be fun to break the white/middle-aged/straight lock on the upper house — and the elevation of Waheed Alli would kill all three of those birds with a single stone.

But still he should resist. Not for some reason peculiar

to him alone, but by the same logic which should have held back Roy Hattersley, Richard Rogers, Helena Kennedy, David Putnam and all the other progressives who have let themselves be swaddled in New Labour's crumpled robes. They should all have said no, but none did. Now Alli can set the lead.

He should turn to Call-me-Roy, Call-me-Helena and the rest and tell them their presence in the Lords legitimates a body which is illegitimate. So long as hereditary peers still sit there, commanding a majority in one half of the nation's law-making machine by simple virtue of their birth certificate, then the House of Lords is a sham. By taking their places on the red benches alongside the 10th Baron Talbot and the "lord admiral Malahide and adjacent seas", Labour Lords lend credibility to the notion that selection-by-genes is an acceptable way to construct a legislature. They also, as Peregine Worsthorne — of all people — has pointed out, sully their own meritocratic achievement: so long as there's a Lord Raglan around, how great is it to be Lord Putnam?

"Come, come," say the new peers. "The hereditaries are on their way out. Before the end of the century the aristocrats will have been stripped of their voting rights in the Lords. Then the only peers will be those selected on their own talents, expertise and effort. Surely there's nothing to stop Waheed joining them?" Oh, but there is. The new, post-reform House of Lords will be illegitimate, just less so. Selection will no

longer be by bloodline, but by political favour instead. It will be the House of Patronage, with places dispensed on the whim of the PM. Democrats have known for centuries of the dangers unleashed when a legislature — even one half of it — is hand-picked by the executive. Yet the first stage of Labour's proposed reform package will hand the second chamber entirely over to the largesse of Number 10 — even if Mr Blair obeys his self-denying ordinance and refuses to pack the House with a Labour majority.

The only legitimate answer is democratic election. It's not complicated. It's democracy for beginners: laws governing the people should be made by men and women chosen by the people. Not by blood, not by prime ministerial whim — but by the people.

THOSE who worry that the expertise and experience that enriches the current Lords will be lost in the necessary blandness of electoral politics need have no fear. An elected upper house could devise a new, democratically-sound way to co-opt non-politicians: it might set up its own appointments committee — modelled perhaps on the judiciary committee of the US Senate — which could grill potential nominees in public hearings. Successful candidates might earn a place on a relevant panel — David Putnam co-opted on to the committee scrutinising arts legislation, say — or even in the upper chamber itself. But the key change will have been made: the executive would have lost its grip on the legislature. The new body should be

elected on a different basis from the Commons, perhaps by region, and at a different time: during the "off-year" between general elections. The traditional mid-term effect would ensure the second chamber is not just a mirror image of the Commons but, as often as not, of the opposite political colour. In an instant it would serve as a genuine check on the executive.

Traditionists will make querulous noises about challenges to the House of Commons — as if the second chamber must not be too democratic, lest it undermine the first. This is absurd. Not only every component of our governing machinery be democratic, but a challenge to the Commons is the precise purpose of a second chamber. That's what a bicameral system of separated powers is all about. Without it, and with both legislative and executive authority lumped together in the Commons, we have seen the result: the elective dictatorship of Lord Hailsham's famous warning.

Yet this kind of root-and-branch change is hardly likely as long as the current body remains tenable. If Labour can get away with Stage One of its plan, creating a House of Patronage, it will have little incentive to move to Stage Two. Only the prospect of an unworkable second chamber will make them act. And that means a boycott. If Waheed Alli and the entire Labour aristocracy refuse to play along, then the Government will have to undertake the reform that at least two centuries overdue. Waheed Alli, you are the man to lead the charge. Your nation awaits.

The press gang

Polly Toynbee



"SHAMED again by the louts" read Monday's Daily Mail's headline, as the English things rampaged through Marseille destroying any pleasure in victory. For who would want to be English?

Forget Lord Tebbit's patriotic cricket test, to be decently English now is to be ashamed of it. Navel-gazing, we stare at our fellow citizens' tattooed beer-bellies and ask why. "We represent England," one of them said proudly. And they do.

Yesterday's Daily Mail leader called it a "sickening show of degenerate patriotism". So where does all this empty pride and false patriotism come from? Who stokes it up? Who poisons the air with the daft idea that to be English is best? Who pumps the bellows of belligerent nationalism? Our own right-wing press, from the post end in the Euro-hating Telegraph, to the xenophobia of the Mail, right down to the flagrant looting of foreigners in the Sun. It is a climate that infects our football commentary too: time into the French commentators and compare how ungenerous and nationalistic we are. Look how even on the day the Mail declared "shame" on its front page, its leader page trumpeted a ludicrous article by AN Wilson in praise of the national anthem beginning, "When God Save the Queen is played before the England v Tunisia match this afternoon, some of us will be feeling patriotic and proud."

Some of us will be feeling patriotic and proud. "Some of us" — and they kicked the hell out of every foreigner they could find. Our press is the only obvious explanation. Nothing else makes us so different from our European partners. Other countries have ignorant louts and far higher unemployment than we. But they don't have that they don't have? The nastiest press in Europe. Look at any newstand on the continent and you just do not read this stuff in their mainstream newspapers. Our fans are the true children of the great British newspaper industry. Doubtless they don't read the Telegraph, but its patrician despising of Johnny foreigner drips down from High Tory pens and circulates round in the blood of British public opinion from one organ to another, a virus that makes us the mad dogs of Europe. Hating is what our press is best at.

Who else publishes such a vast quantity of newsprint devoted to reactionary rabble-rousing, petty encouragement to readers to hate foreigners and one another for any number of reasons: gays, single mothers, anyone not "normal" — which, like the lottery, could suddenly turn out to be you or yours.

DAY after day, most of our presses roll out stories where the unemployed are "scroungers", benefit recipients are "frauds", asylum seekers are "bogus", blacks are only news if they are criminals and the poor are only a problem because they threaten an imaginary "us" — who are never any of the above. Who shall we hate today for a really good front page story? What if the blood-sucker on the taxpayer? What foreigner or filthy Eurocrat? The press proprietors deliberately shape the bar-room bigotry of Britain.

Last week Sir David English died. Founder of the modern Daily Mail, he leaves behind a vast political clout and departs this life amid glowing professional eulogies. He invented a bizarre and hypocritical, moralising populism that has set the pace for the rest of the right-wing press over the past two

decades. As his obituarists write, it was all an impish game to him, a grand gambling adventure, a brilliantly clever journalistic trick. One quoted him saying, "You can't report Rwanda, it's too far away and they're the wrong colour."

His triumph was in creating a magical fantasy land, far from any reality, as complete, cocooned and comforting as Enid Blyton's world. You know where you are in Sir David English's Toytown: everything is neatly labelled Good or Bad. Everyone is white, well-behaved, married, working, home-owning, nice-looking, selfish (the Mail has a section called Self and content). But that would make a very dull daily story. So Toytown must always be under threat, a new danger every day. The woods are full of gollywogs and bad boys, nasty tax-men, dirty people, bad fat cats (but not good ones like Lord Rothermere), wicked women with too many children or none, teachers who don't use the cane, artists who are more, beggars who are just pretending, teenagers who have too much noisy fun and people talking foreign languages who want to suck Toytown into the European badlands. But the worst villains of all are the rats who won't say Toytown is the very best place on earth.

No doubt the Mail's 2,000,000 readers are as typical and diverse a slice of pluralistic Britain as any, struggling along with complicated lives, divorces, difficult children, bad parents. They have good jobs and bad jobs, are happy or unhappy — but for that brief moment of the day they can believe in Toytown, tilted by a daily trission of fear at alien things that threaten it. Above all they can pretend that Britain really is the best. What does it mean to be



They are the most xenophobic, bigoted 'opinion formers' in the western world

proud of your country? Not much. Love of country, wars and all, springs from the easy familiarity of home, every wrinkle in the wall paper, every creak on the stairs. Like family, it doesn't have to be loved. We can celebrate any amount of our history, but we can claim neither credit nor collective guilt for it. We can only boast of what we are now and what we may make of ourselves.

But can we become any better when bombarded on every side by the most xenophobic, bigoted, cynical "opinion formers" in the western world? Just three men, Murdoch, Rothermere and Black, and they intimidate our politicians, frightening them out of their better instincts. The sad disappointment of our EU presidency can largely be laid at their door. How can Blair create his vision of a modern Britain from one organ to another, a virus that makes us the mad dogs of Europe. Hating is what our press is best at.

The Guardian

Tony in Euroland
Does he plan early entry

Letters to the Editor
Why

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Something

Mark Steel

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The Guardian

Wednesday June 17 1998
Edition Number 47204
119 Farringdon Road, London EC1R 3ER
Tel No: 0171-278 2332
Fax No: 0171-837 4530
E-mail: letters@guardian.co.uk
Website: http://www.guardian.co.uk

Tony in Euroland

Does he plan early entry?

IF BRITAIN'S plans to join the European single currency were judged solely by the mood music coming from the Cardiff summit you could be forgiven for thinking that a decision was close to being made. Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, set the tone at the weekend. He warned that there was a limit to how long Britain could sit on the fence and that investment prospects in the UK (one of the Treasury's five criteria for entry) could be hit if we stayed out. He said Britain might join "some time early in the next century" which was interpreted as 2002 or soon after the next general election. President Chirac of France said he would bet Britain would be in by 2002 and Tony Blair fanned expectations with a rousing endorsement of the single currency as a turning point for Europe and the first step towards US-style high growth and employment.

Mr Blair wants to win more popular approval of the euro by extending "subsidy" (taking decisions at the lowest feasible level) thereby diluting Euro-federalism which makes European integration unpopular in Britain in general and the Sun newspaper in particular. This is the subject of the EU's agreement to hold a meeting of heads of government in October to discuss ways of making the EU more popular and less remote from the public. This is a subject dear to the heart of Chancellor Helmut Kohl, who needs to convince an increasingly sceptical German electorate of the attractions of EMU.

There is a possibility if the euro becomes popular in Britain — thanks to a strongly reviving Continental economy and astute PR by the Blair camp — that the promised referendum could be brought forward before the next election. Some Blair-watchers argue that he won't want the next election hijacked by a xenophobic Save Our Pound campaign and by holding a referendum earlier he could split the Conservative Party in two while at the same time giving himself an opportunity to assume the leadership of a post-Kohl Europe.

In theory, the Government's position is that making a decision during this parliament is "not realistic" but there is a codicil — "barring some fundamental and unforeseen change in economic circumstances". If Mr Blair decided that the political circumstances had improved he could easily convince himself that the five economic tests the Treasury has set for entry into EMU had been met. The first, and most important, of these, is whether the UK business cycle has converged in a sustainable way with other European countries. The Government could argue this if, as is likely, the EMU economy is in the middle of a strong cyclical recovery. This won't, of course, prove that EMU is a success (that won't be known until it has established a track record beyond cyclical recovery) but as long as it looks as though things are going well it could provide the political opportunity the Government is seeking. The dangers of EMU going badly wrong are still there irrespective of a cyclical recovery. For instance, at the moment there is a fierce argument going on whether it is in Britain's interest for the Bank of England to raise interest rates by a mere 0.25 per cent. Imagine the consequences if instead it was the new European Central Bank raising rates to cool the economies of France

and Germany while a recession-bound UK economy needed a sharp fall in rates. Eurosceptical Conservatives would pick this one up and run all the way to the polling booths. This is not to say that Britain should never enter, nor that the political benefits of entry might be deemed to outweigh the negative economic ones. It merely means that sitting this dance out still has potent attractions.

Nailing Milosevic

Withdrawal is the only way out

SLOBODAN Milosevic is dodging again as he did so often during the Bosnian crisis. There was no surprise about his joint declaration yesterday with President Vukotich: no one expected him to yield to all the Contact Group's four demands. But the favourable gloss given to the statement by the Russians should not mislead. He has only given ground on the easiest ones: this is going to be a long-term haul.

A commitment to refrain from "repressive actions against civilians" was worth securing for its value on paper: if violated, it will at least legitimise further measures against Serbia. The same is true for the guarantee of freedom of movement for diplomats and international organisations. This should be put to the test by greatly expanding the EC Monitoring Mission. A commitment to allow the return of refugees and state aid to rebuild their "destroyed homes" (a phrase which concedes that these were destroyed by Serb forces) also provides a test for Belgrade. But agreeing to resolve Kosovo's problems by political means is a platitude: so is the willingness expressed to continue negotiations with the Kosovo Albanians — but without agreeing

to make the "rapid progress" demanded by the Contact Group.

Mr Milosevic has remained intransigent on the most crucial issue: a complete withdrawal of his security forces. One can see that this is extremely hard for Belgrade to accept with the Kosovan Liberation Army left in place. If implemented in full, it amounts to handing Kosovo over to the Albanian majority unconditionally. That may be a just solution: the Serbs have only themselves to blame for having alienated the entire Albanian population, but it is unrealistic to expect it simply to happen. Nor would allied intervention achieve that aim without all-out war — even if it did command general support. Quite apart from Russia's opposition, the prospect of it was being played down yesterday by the US Defence Secretary.

Guarantees for the Serb minority, and a commitment to restrain the KLA, might make a more acceptable package for Belgrade. But this still depends on solving the real diplomatic problem: how to persuade Mr Milosevic that withdrawal is now his only sensible way out.

Mighty Mandela

He steals the show at Cardiff

FROM GAZZA to Princess Diana, via Ginger Spice and Ulrika Jonsson, we constantly fret about the nature of modern, media-driven celebrity and its less attractive consequences. But Nelson Mandela defies all the rules. At Cardiff Castle yesterday he seemed to be teaching Welsh children how to sing Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star. Not many people would get away with that. But not many foreign dignitaries could draw 5,000 people, all suffused with that post-

modern sense of irony, to cheer a hero's arrival. "Nelson Steals the Show" declared the Western Mail. Indeed he did, though there is not much competition at the average EU summit.

What is it about Mandela which places him on a pedestal almost above reproach? His noble nature, obviously, and the fact that he both triumphed and forgave those who had imprisoned him for 27 years. More significantly, he also persuaded many of his enemies to admire him. That suggests that low political cunning works in tandem with his noble vision of a world freed from racial hatreds. There is a lot more to Nelson than sainthood.

Mr Mandela was in Cardiff to accept the freedom of the city and to thank Welsh anti-apartheid activists who supported his struggle. He also lunched with the EU summiters and, doubtless, made them feel better about themselves, as he did with the crowds outside. That is part of his appeal, he will retire as an unsullied hero in an age which loves to pull heroes down.

In reality the sun does not shine now as brightly as it did for the new South Africa. Radicals at home are disappointed that the Old Man has not tackled the white economic power structures, that change is coming too slowly to prevent renewed upheaval. Radicals abroad complain the fine words from the EU and the US in 1994 have not yet translated into help — even trade concessions for fruit and wine — on the scale needed to tilt the balance.

This is the harsh version of St Nelson: a titular figure, shorn of real power, a symbol of reassurance to the very forces which imprisoned him. That is premature and certainly condescending. It will not diminish the radiant, reciprocated smiles which greet his final tours. Whatever Mandela's secret is, they should bottle it.

Letters to the Editor

Fertile ground for debate

TAMPONS are cellulose products which, when used, are laden with plant nutrients (it's a dirty job, June 16). Compost them in an enclosed bin. Combined with the rich fermenting output of a composter filled with household waste and garden debris they would be a valuable addition to the mulch. Placentas were, historically, used to the same ends — and you can still buy blood-based fertiliser. Why not make a virtue of necessity? David Rowlands, Basingstoke, Hants.

OK, I'll stop chucking my tampons down the loo if the government agrees to remove VAT from them — or even better, supply them free. Rachel Cave, Brighton.

I WAS pleased that you mentioned that Sir Roger Casement's knighthood was conferred partly for his humanitarian work in the Congo (Irish hero knew uprising would fail, June 15). It is most likely that Joseph Conrad, who campaigned for clemency for Casement, based his novel, *The Heart of Darkness*, on Sir Roger's nightmarish experiences in Africa. Jim McGinley, Brighton.

SAAC Newton should worry: the designer of the new £2 coin has symbolised British technology by a closed loop train of 19 meshed gear wheels, hence incapable of motion. Philip Spruce, Birmingham.

SEE that the Railtrack manager responsible for safety standards has been given an MBE. Does this suggest the Queen has a sense of humour? Brian Clover, London.

Why oh why do they do it?

I WAS incensed by the (presumably Celtic) racism from Ruaridh Nicholl (Send England home, June 16) in response to the small but significant number of alcohol-crazed idiots in Marseille. I, as an Englishman who has lived and worked in Scotland for the last five years, have had to suffer this anti-English bigotry continually. If one replaces the word "English" with "nigger", the uphells is there for all to see. All nationalism is romantic, reactionary racism, from the SNP to the BNP. Steve Morris, Kilmoss-shire.

ANN Tobin (Letters, June 16) should now invest in an Association Football Rule Book and a good lawyer. Those involved in sport are increasingly subject to criminal proceedings with regard to violence during a game, as a number of rugby and football players have found during the last few years.

To accuse David Batty of deliberately assaulting the unfortunate Tunisian player, when the contact, in this contact sport, was clearly accidental, could justifiably warrant a full enquiry (such as that given to Brooke Shields). Neil Ferguson, London.

A SA war-time RN seaman (1940-46), I agree with Ian Flintoff (Letters, June 16) about the activities of our young men in Marseille. For years they have been indoctrinated with the idea that "we" won the war (the Americans did), the French gave in to the Germans (we had already evacuated through Dunkirk) and our defeats (especially Dunkirk and Arrhen) were in fact heroic near-victories. They have been vilified by the

establishment while at the same time presented with programmes such as *Men Behaving Badly* which show laddish behaviour as desirable. It is simply a matter of reaping what we have sown. David Smith, Boston, Lincs.

IAN FLINTOFF blames unemployment. What about the education system which allows children of five and six — mostly boys — to fail and does not identify their learning difficulties let alone provide appropriate specialist teaching before they experience lowered self-esteem? We have had reports linking low literacy levels and truancy and crime, others showing the gender gap. We know 80 per cent of people in prisons have learning difficulties. What chance eradicating disenfranchisement? Lillemor Clark, London.

THE Marseille violence was a premeditated racial attack by a group of young white English men on the Tunisian supporters and any other North Africans in the vicinity. Such violence was all too predictable in a city already dogged by racial tension and with a high North African population. The links between the British National Front and some England "supporters" is well established.

The Crime and Disorder Bill allows for significant penalties for racially motivated crime. Now is the time for football authorities, the Criminal Justice System and the police to use this legislative framework to send a clear message of no tolerance of racism in football. Robin Tuddenham, London.

IT IS offensive to suggest that all fans supporting their country's team are motivated by anything other than a desire to see that team do well. I agree that there are some unpleasant and politically incorrect comments made in moments of heated emotional excitement but in most cases this is nothing to do with "rampant nationalism" and more to do with pissed-up-archaicism. Patrick Mason, Sheffield.

IF THE World Cup is the global media stage that the Fifa president claims it is (Leader, June 16), it seems a farce of the most hypocritical kind to see people (GP) charged with murder of cancer sufferers (June 11). This is because the only information so far available to the general public — including, of course, other doctors — is that he apparently prescribed to his patient, Mr George Liddell, the opioid diamorphine at the rate of 120 mgs per day together with an anti-retching drug. The opioid was less than 1 per cent of the maximum quantified dose suggested in hospice guidance and, since last

September, in the British Medical Journal, Mr Liddell was already acknowledged to be close to death and said by his family to be in great distress. While this case is waiting to come to trial, doctors are likely to be even more reluctant than they are already to administer opioids in quantities adequate to relieve terminal distress. The legal authorities should ensure the case is heard as soon as possible, or they will be indirectly responsible for increasing still further the suffering of dying people. Don Aston, Shirley, Solihull.

ANY chance of diverting some of those Nato planes over Albania/Kosovo to Toulouse and Lens? Paresah Motia, Thame, Oxon.

Please include a full postal address and day-time telephone number. We may edit letters.



Deadly dilemma for doctors

THE decision to charge Dr David Moor with murder threatens to create a crisis in the care of dying people (GP charged with murder of cancer sufferer, June 11). This is because the only information so far available to the general public — including, of course, other doctors — is that he apparently prescribed to his patient, Mr George Liddell, the opioid diamorphine at the rate of 120 mgs per day together with an anti-retching drug. The opioid was less than 1 per cent of the maximum quantified dose suggested in hospice guidance and, since last

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Eritrea's symbol of survival

AS ONE of the Britons who evacuated Eritrea on June 7, I read David Hirst's article (David tries the Horn's Goliaths, June 16) with particular interest. The new Eritrean currency is called the Nakfa not because that town saw the greatest single victory by the Eritrean People's Liberation Front over the forces of the Ethiopian Dergue but because it symbolises the survival of the Eritrean will for independence. It is in this town that the EPLF held its wartime and

postwar congresses. These were the EPLF fought in the 30 years' war of liberation are not those who now govern Ethiopia. It is, therefore, surely inappropriate to describe the choice of the name of the currency as "hardly tactful" when the current government of Ethiopia is largely composed of former wartime allies of the EPLF, whose cause against the Dergue was aided by the successes of the EPLF. Janet Gruber, Cambridge.

Something else Di-ed

Mark Steel



SURELY it's time that Marie-Antoinette was recognised for her historic role as a goddess to feminism. For here was a woman who was specially selected as an aristocratic virgin to marry a stuffy and incompetent heir to the throne, became disillusioned by royal protocol and was blamed for the crisis in royalty, dealt with her boredom by spending vast fortunes on jewellery and becoming a fashion icon to the

rich, initially denied but then admitted to affairs, and was suddenly snuffed out in her mid-thirties in a split second in Paris.

So where are the books? Why has Bea Campbell never gone on the radio to say "When she uttered that chilling and powerful statement 'Let them eat cake', wasn't she telling us that our lives as women are like stale Swiss rolls dry, curled up and waiting to be eaten. And that as women we're all part victim, part defiant — just like a strawberry sponge."

And where's the ITV conspiracy theory that goes "It was a day that was to end in tragedy. But our reporters have learned of startling new evidence which suggests that when the guillotine fell, it may not have been an accident?"

This would make more sense than the feminist canonisation of Diana, currently enjoying a revival after a few months of relative calm. According to Bea Campbell's lat-

est book, Diana's status as rebellious heroine began when she fell in love with a particular hellsman, and without Charles' approval got the designers to make one for her to wear at a charity gala. "This was the transitional moment..." she says, for "the dress was more than daring, it was dangerous."

I believe it was the same for Sylvia Plath. She got Europe's top designers to create a low-cut chiffon number for a charity gala and from that day on it was obvious she wasn't going to stop until women had the vote. Interview on Panorama thrust her into the "constituency of the rejected", alongside, among others, survivors of Vietnam, torture and the Holocaust.

There are two possibilities here. Maybe she's seen the uncut version of that interview in which, just after Diana tells us that "three in a marriage was a bit crowded", a helicopter lands and the US

air force waste the camera crew. Or she's got things slightly out of proportion. For which I suggest the remedy of going up to someone who was in the Viet Cong, and saying "You think you had it rough, I know someone who was on Panorama."

It's one thing to argue how, for many people, Diana became a symbol of compassion which society wouldn't deliver. But if she was a victim, keep it in perspective. If a teacher asked a class what a victim was, they wouldn't give top marks to the kid who said "Is it someone who cruises around the Mediterranean with a millionaire, miss?"

And the claims that she was trying to bring the monarchy down tend to ignore the fact that she was desperate for her son to become king. As republicanism goes, I'd say this put her on the moderate wing.

So why have so many women who'd describe themselves as feminists fallen for this? After all, the 1982 book *Sweet Freedom*, sub-headed "The struggle for women's liberation" was co-written by Bea Campbell, and has chapters on work, the law, unions, low pay and violence against women. But nowhere in its 248 pages does it mention Diana, although it was published the year after she got married.

That was a bit ramish wasn't it? Writing a book about women's liberation that drowned an about-unimportant issue like low pay, while at Buckingham Palace a woman was being tortured by not being allowed to choose her own bachelors.

But this was back when feminists like Campbell still took an interest in working-class women. Shortly after this, they adopted the fashionable view that class was no longer relevant. So when the Women Against Pit Closures groups opened up an exciting period in the battle for women's liberation, Campbell

missed the whole thing, having dismissed the miners' strikes as "macho politics". By the nineties, they'd abandoned collective action altogether, even on issues which directly affected women. Instead the "struggle for women's liberation" would be fought by analysing lifestyles, in the media by day and at dinner parties by night. And it's ended up with the idolisation of a modern Marie-Antoinette.

So it's time someone wrote an obituary of Bea Campbell's feminism. "When it began it seemed so simple so enchanting. But in the end the sad truth emerged, and the divorce with reality which followed was tragic, and yet sadly inevitable. Then finally it all came to an end, crushed and never to be resurrected in that lonely tunnel in Paris."

So is there any lesson at all from the death of Diana? I think there is, and the lesson is this. Don't get in the car if the driver's pissed.

Just the ticket for the airport, apart from the sky-high price

JONATHAN Glancey must have had one whiff too many of the odorous brand of toilet cleaner prescribed by BAA executives for their new Paddington-Heathrow Express train service (Is this the future for British Rail?, June 15). Although BAA's decision to project this service is a wise one, the fares are not impressive. Paddington to Heathrow by Underground for two adults, a 16-year-old and an 8-year-old — best total single fare, £10.80; same passengers using the Heathrow Express — best total single fare, £35. Is this the kind of allure the "butchered and battered" rail network has been lacking for many years? Andy Macgarr, London.

THE Paddington-Heathrow rail link is certainly a fine example of British engineering and design. However, when the Prime Minister per-

forms the official opening ceremony I hope he does not have to return to Downing Street by Tube. If he were to do so he would discover that the people who run London Underground have decided to take the Bakerloo Line down-escalator out of action for a year, as part of their routine maintenance programme.

No one in that organisation has satisfactorily explained why, in this age of integrated transport, the maintenance could not have been advanced so that travellers on the Heathrow Express could have avoided manhandling their luggage down a long staircase. The Prime Minister might care to ask Glenda Jackson, to whom London Underground in theory reports, why its management were so lacking in foresight. He might also ask why Underground staff at Paddington Station do so little to help struggling passengers. Paul Twyman, London.

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FinanceGuardian

Inflation fuels rate rise alert

Mark Atkinson and
Charlotte Denry

THE threat of yet higher interest rates loomed yesterday after inflation hit a six-year high, raising fears of a wages and prices spiral.

The headline rate of price increases climbed to 4.3 per cent in May from 4 per cent in April, focusing attention on average earnings figures, which will be released this morning.

If they continue to rise in response to the rise in inflation, further interest rate increases may be necessary.

That likelihood increased after comments by the Governor of the Bank of England, Eddie George, who said the figures were "clearly not comfortable with regard to the inflation target".

Speaking to the annual conference of the British Chambers of Commerce, Mr George said that the economy is "as close to overheating as it has been in a long time".

His hawkish remarks fanned speculation that he had switched sides at the

Bank's monetary policy committee meeting on June 4, when rates were raised to 7.5 per cent from 7.25 per cent.

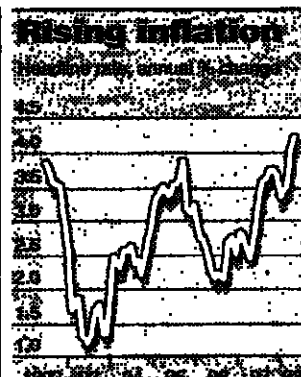
After several months of voting to keep the cost of borrowing at 6.5 per cent, the Government's 2.5 per cent inflation target was threatened by last month's figures showing average earnings rising at 4.9 per cent, say analysts.

In anticipation of a further tightening of monetary policy, the pound rose to a six-week high against the dollar of \$1.626 from \$1.621.

It also rose from 2.948 German marks to 2.9719, its strongest position against that currency since May 5.

The main reason for the rise in the headline rate of inflation and the underlying rate, excluding mortgage interest payments, which went up to 3.2 per cent from 3 per cent, was a sharp increase in seasonal food prices, especially potatoes. Overall, they rose by 8.3 per cent in the month, the biggest increase since 1988, largely due to April's poor weather.

There were also increases in the prices of clothing, footwear and household goods, which may not unwind in the



way that seasonal food prices are likely to, analysts pointed out.

The jump in the core sectors may well reflect the apparent rebound in high-street spending in May after the weather-depressed April," said Jonathan Loyne, UK economist at HSBC Markets.

"If so, next month's numbers will be crucial in indicating whether retailers are managing to make price increases stick or whether consumers once more recoiled from high prices. The cat-and-mouse game goes on."

Home buyers suffer at the hands of the Halifax

Lee Stuart

BITAIN'S largest mortgage lender, Halifax, and fellow demutualised building society Northern Rock have raised their mortgage interest rates by 0.25 per cent to 8.55 per cent, leaving millions of borrowers worse off.

Halifax, with 19 per cent of residential lending, dominates the market and its rate changes tend to be

reflected by other, smaller lenders. The interest-rate rise will leave the average mortgage customer, with a £60,000 debt, paying an extra £11.88 a month on interest-only terms.

About 1.5 million of the Halifax's 2.5 million mortgage customers on standard variable terms will be affected. For new borrowers, Halifax's rise takes effect from June 19; existing customers will be charged from July 1.

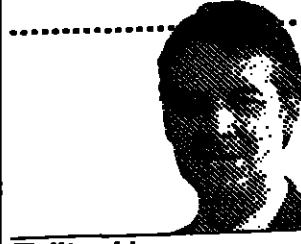
The higher rate applies from today for new Northern Rock borrowers.

Abbey National and Cheltenham & Gloucester have already said that their standard variable rate will rise by 0.25 per cent in line with the rise in base rates announced by the Bank of England two weeks ago.

Halifax savings rates will also go up on July 1 by around 0.25 per cent. Northern Rock's savings rates rise on July 3.

Notebook

Prescott blinded by tunnel vision



Edited by
Roger Cowe

IF YOU were to be told that there was a one in five chance you would be dead by tomorrow, it is fairly certain you would take those odds seriously. Yet John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, would have us believe that a 20 per cent risk is so small that it is almost negligible.

That is the assessment of Mr Prescott and his advisers of the likelihood that the Government will have to stand behind the £3.7 billion of bonds which will be issued to help refinance the Channel tunnel rail link.

Mr Prescott has argued that this is not a state bail-out for London & Continental Railways and that the £3.7 billion should not be reflected in the Public Sector Borrowing Requirement.

This reasoning is plainly absurd. Admittedly, the Government's exposure will not last for long because Railtrack has agreed to buy out the project and the bonds once the rail connection gets to Ebbsfleet in three or four years' time.

It is, however, crucial because it helps create a more hospitable sentiment in the financial community which will then reciprocate by shaving something like 2 per cent off overall funding costs.

The saving is worth about £1 billion and has enabled Mr Prescott to emerge phoenix-like from the embarrassing pyre of corporate rubble that threatened thousands of jobs.

Even if Mr Prescott's assessment of a one-in-five default possibility is pessimistic, there is still a significant risk that taxpayers will have to pick up the tab.

It is unacceptable for the Government to try, by sleight of hand, to conceal that risk. The Public Accounts Committee should ensure that the blunt Mr Prescott is forced to call a spade a spade — even when that is uncomfortable.

Don't panic

IT'S tempting to regard yesterday's inflation figures as retrospective justification for the Bank of England's surprise decision to raise interest rates two weeks ago. Tempting but wrong. Remember, the Bank's job is to target inflation two years ahead, not to look through the rear-view mirror.

True, the data was a little scary, although the jump in the rate of price increases was attributed mainly to an 8.3 per cent rise in volatile seasonal food prices — the biggest since England won the World Cup in 1966 — and this will probably unwind in June.

Warning lights were also flashing in other categories,

however. Clothing and footwear prices rose by 1.1 per cent in the month and household goods by 1.1 per cent.

But it remains to be seen whether these price rises will stick in the shops, where competition remains fierce. May's figures, published next month, may tell a different story.

The outcome of the battle between retailer and consumer will not be seen until May's retail sales figures. In the meantime, the Bank will no doubt be getting nervous about the implications for wages of the continuing rise in the headline rate of inflation, which is often used as a benchmark by pay bargainers.

This, indeed, is a worry. If wage deals continue to ratchet upwards, the economy could get caught in a vicious wage-price spiral. But, the City and boardroom aside, there is little evidence to suggest that pay deals are heading into the stratosphere. The CBI's latest pay data bank shows a fall in wage deals in manufacturing while they remain virtually unchanged in services.

Tomorrow's average earnings data will no doubt continue to be distorted upwards by bonuses and fuel fears of further interest rate rises to come.

But slowing economic growth will eventually ensure that a lengthening dole queue acts as a powerful restraining influence on pay and inflation.

The message to the Bank is: Don't panic.

Shoddy business

MPs could be forgiven for feeling a sense of déjà vu at yesterday's attempt to try to convince the two most prominent figures in the world of legitimate drugs that they should be setting something of a business example.

The House of Commons Science and Technology Select Committee decreed that top executives at Glaxo Wellcome and SmithKline Beecham had shown poor judgment and not been held to account for the collapse of their planned £100 billion merger.

The MPs have done the public and small shareholders a favour by loudly questioning why the boardrooms of both companies allowed two powerful executives to act in such a shameful way.

By pointing the finger at professional investors, the MPs have correctly identified one of the most enduring hypocrisies — that fund managers, often hiding behind anonymity, will bellyache about a company in which they hold shares but all too rarely do anything about it.

Attempts to encourage the City to put its own corporate governance house in order have not been a conspicuous success.

The army of senior businessmen acting as advisers to the Government should now be given an ultimatum to improve boardroom accountability. Otherwise the Government should do it for them.

Channel link's £3.7bn under scrutiny

Keith Harper and
Lisa Buckingham

THE Government's £3.7 billion golden guarantee for the Channel tunnel rail link is to be investigated by the Public Accounts Committee, which may rule that it is in fact a back-door subsidy.

Whitehall sources last night said that a decision on whether the committee or the National Audit Office or both would investigate the refinancing of the package would be made in the next month. An inquiry is expected in the autumn when work is due to begin on the project.

Members of the Public Accounts Committee are unhappy with the Treasury's explanation that the £3.7 billion does not count against the Public Sector Borrowing Requirement.

They are annoyed that, when the deal was announced, the Government suggested that the National Statistical Office had said that the risk that the guarantee would be called was small; so there was no need to count it as part of the PSBR.

But Railway insiders last night said that a 20 per cent risk was big enough to warrant concern. It showed that the public sector might ultimately be forced to save the project and that this should be recognised.

Neither the Public Accounts Committee or the National Audit Office is likely to be satisfied with the Government's explanation. Both are expected to warn that, in the light of the financial catastrophe surrounding the building of the Channel tunnel, ministers are playing with taxpayers' money. A senior industry source said: "The risk to the Government is much greater than it is prepared to admit."

The Treasury's decision to

underwrite the enormously complex rescue package means that £1 billion can be syphoned off the investment costs, making the £5.7 billion rail link project viable.

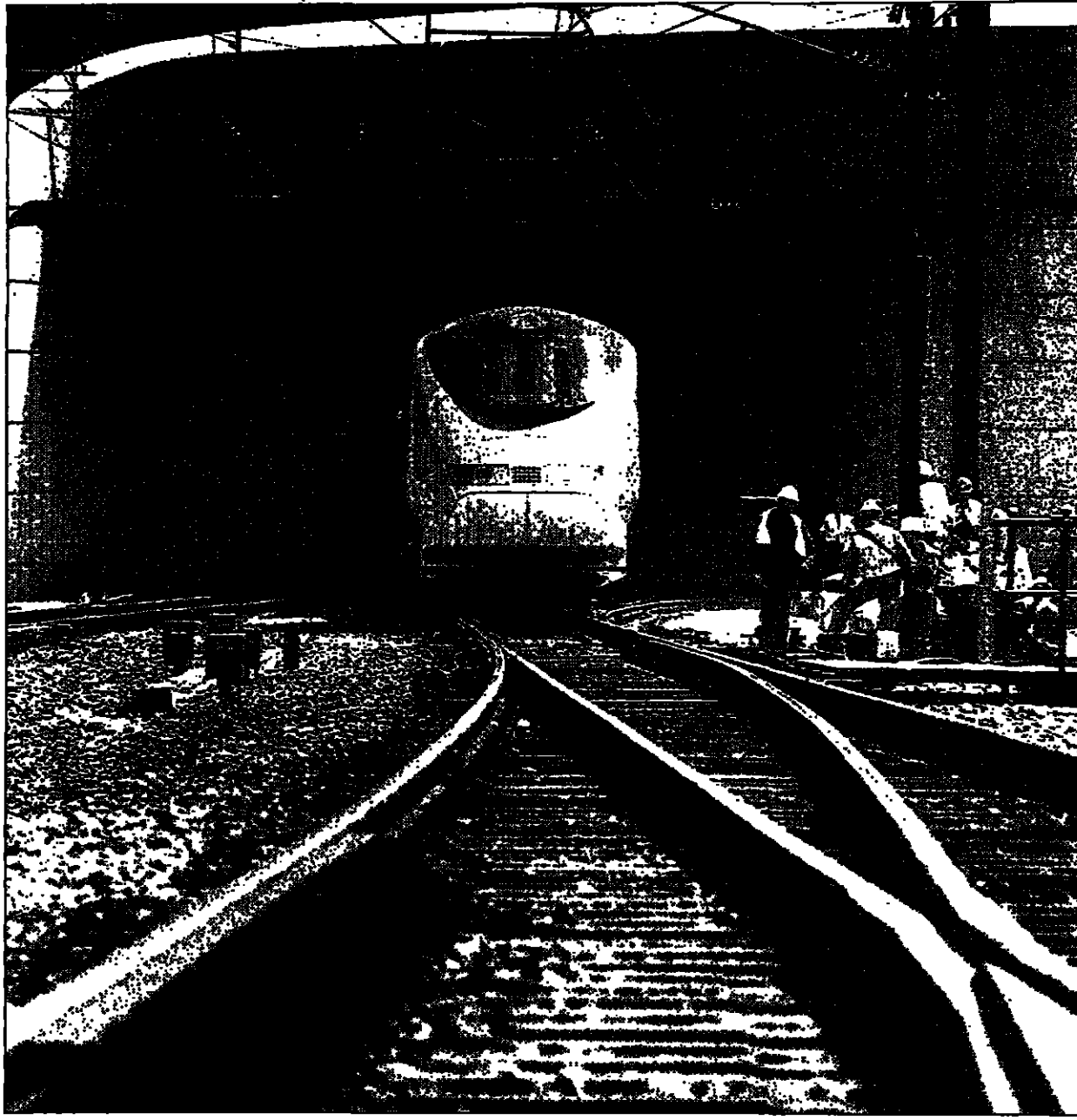
Senior financiers admitted yesterday that securing the £5.7 billion of new finance needed by London & Continental Railways would run right up to the wire in late summer. A bank loan of £2 billion together with a bond issue for £3.7 billion must be in place ready for work to start in October. But one insider described the timetable as "very ambitious" and "very challenging".

"In order even to start implementing the detail of the financing we must sort out the detail of those agreements in principle," the executive said. A large and very complex team arrangement is now looking into how the deal is going to work.

It is understood that the main bankers involved in LCR's refinancing — SBC Warburg and Deutsche Morgan Grenfell — will set up a parallel process to start preliminary financing negotiations to ensure not too much time is lost. LCR executives would make no comment on the refinancing deal other than to state it was the company's "aim to have the finances in place ready for work to start in October".

Richard Branson's Virgin Group has asked LCR for permission to run a fleet of Eurostar trains from Scotland and northern England through the Channel tunnel from the beginning of next year. The fleet was built for LCR but has never been used because it was thought they could not be run at a profit.

But Will Whitehorn, Virgin's chief spokesman, said that it would pay LCR £2.5 million a year to lease the trains. The plan will be considered by deputy prime minister John Prescott, in a review of regional Eurostar services.



Running on regardless... controversy still dogs Channel tunnel link five years after the first train. PHOTOGRAPH: ALAN REVELL

BAT smuggling claim tested

Dan Atkinson

TOBACCO group BAT has been asked to answer allegations that it sold billions of dollars worth of cigarettes, knowing they were going to be smuggled into China. A judge in Hong Kong was speaking at the end of the trial on bribery charges of BAT's former export director in the territory, Jerry Lui.

Justice Wally Yeung was, officially, interested only in determining whether Lui — who is expected to be sentenced next week — should pay BAT £1.9 million compensation. But this will be the first time a court will test long-standing allegations that big tobacco groups such as BAT connive in the smuggling of their own products.

Campaigners and tobacco-industry observers have claimed that up to one-third of the world's 900 billion-odd cigarettes "disappear" every year, supposedly into the hands of smuggling rings.

Mr Lui was linked with a big operation accused of smuggling popular western cigarettes into China, which charges a penal tariff of about 175 per cent on foreign smokes to protect its own state monopoly. He took bribes from the smugglers to ensure a regular supply of BAT cigarettes.

Judge Yeung said: "The evidence by the prosecution seemed to suggest that at all material times BAT and company management was aware that cigarettes worth billions of dollars would end up on the mainland."

BAT in London said last night it was seeking clarification of the judge's request and emphasised that it was not litigating. A spokesman said the company was well aware its products were smuggled but denied it stood to benefit.

The Chinese market represents one-third of all cigarettes sold. Among the most popular brands is BAT's State Express 555, once the favourite smoke of leader Mao Tse Tung.

RAC members launch legal action over division of £450m pay-out

Julia Finch

HUNDREDS of overseas and retired Royal Automobile Club members today start legal action in an attempt to obtain a share of the £450 million windfall pay-outs due when the RAC sells its breakdown and insurance operations.

They are launching a claim which could total £60 million against individual members of the RAC committee, which has sanctioned the pay-out and approved the rules which determine who benefits and who misses out.

The committee includes Neil Johnson, the RAC's chief executive, and Lord (Colin) Marshall, the newly ennobled chairman of British Airways.

The overseas and retired members' claim for £55,000 each rests on a clause in membership rights which they say allows them to return to full membership



Who benefits? RAC headquarters in London's Pall Mall

at any time. But since the pay-out was announced many have been told they cannot be reinstated and do not qualify for the windfall.

The action is being handled by legal firm Epstein Grover, which is acting on behalf of the growing band of protesters. Lawyer Stephen Alexander, who is planning three sepa-

rate legal actions, said that some of those excluded had been members for more than 30 years.

He is also hoping to embarrass the RAC into changing its stance on a number of individual cases. Last night he said he was acting for at least one widow whose husband was a lifelong RAC full member

but died only two weeks before the cut-off date for a pay-out.

He said he also wanted to know why more than 400 new members were accepted to the club in the first three months of this year — many more than normal — just before the deadline. Mr Alexander said he had discovered some "interesting" new members and intended to name them in the hope of shaming the RAC.

He is also hoping to highlight problems within the RAC, the US company which is purchasing the RAC's lucrative motoring services offshoot.

The company, which is offering loan notes to RAC members rather than straight-forward cash payouts if they wish to alleviate their capital gains tax bills, has recently admitted that profits at one of its subsidiaries were substantially overstated last year. It is now facing class-action lawsuits in the US.

NTL cable deal narrows field

Simon Beavis
Media Business Editor

CONSOLIDATION of Britain's cable telephone and television industry gathered momentum yesterday when NTL spent the equivalent of \$1.2 billion (£730 million) in cash and shares buying out the businesses of ComTel and Diamond Cable in a deal which leaves only three main players in the field.

The two deals propel NTL's customer base from just over 3 million to 5.2 million, which it just behind Cable & Wireless Communications and Telewest.

New York-based NTL said it paid \$550 million in cash and preferred stock for the

Comtel business owned by KPN, the Dutch telecom company. It then announced its swoop on Diamond Cable, a \$850 million all-shares deal.

Barclay Knapp, president of NTL, said the two deals moved the company to the forefront of UK the telecommunications industry, with annualised revenues of nearly \$1 billion and lifting the numbers employed by the company from 4,500 to 6,800.

The deals give NTL a wide geographic spread of franchises, including Northern Ireland, western Scotland, including parts of Glasgow, West Yorkshire, and the East Midlands, South Wales and areas to the north and west of London.

TOURIST RATES — BANK SELLS

Australia 2,728	Germany 2,871	Malaysia 5,56	Singapore 2,80
Austria 2,024	Greece 491.83	Malta 6,827	South Africa 8,57
Belgium 2,534	Hong Kong 12.33	Netherlands 3,228	Spain 245.48
Canada 2,343	India 69.07	New Zealand 3.23	Sweden 12.93
Cyprus 8,845	Ireland 1,131	Norway 12.23	Switzerland 2,507
Denmark 11,022	Israel 6.02	Portugal 251.64	Turkey 471.280
Finland 8,828	Italy 2,842	Saudi Arabia 6.04	USA 1,025
France 9,825			

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سكنا من الامل

Club makers prime Big Bertha

David Davies in San Francisco sees an opening salvo fired in a hi-tech war

LAST Saturday a seemingly innocuous item on CBS News was, in fact, anything but. It was a shot across the bows of one of the game's ruling bodies, the august United States Golf Association, which had threatened club-makers with extinction, or so it seems to them.

But if anything signalled the ferocity with which those firms are going to fight, over the matter of the continuance of developing technology, this item did.

The USGA says it is worried about the effects of technology on the game, with new materials sending the ball so far that courses are becoming obsolete and the game too easy. The manufacturers not only say this is rubbish, they challenge the USGA to prove it.

The CBS item, on the national news, featured a reporter briefly recounting the facts of the case: that the USGA had threatened to "freeze" the sport at this precise point in time in order to protect the integrity of the game.

But, it seemed, the manufacturers were very willing to comment, and they did. The gist of their message was that to stop matters where they were now was rather like giving someone a gun and then snatching it back. The item finished with pictures of some hackers at a driving range who could hardly move the ball forward, let alone upwards or straight — the implicit message being you want to penalise these extraordinary items in many ways, in that it was based on supposition, for no one knew at the time what the USGA was going to propose, and will not know until today. This morning, at the US Open venue here, it is announcing its intentions and



Big hit... the long-distance driver and 1997 US Masters champion Tiger Woods draws his usual admiring gallery as he tees off at the par-three 3rd in practice for the US Open at the Olympic club

until then the game is in the dark.

That being the case the story would not normally be of sufficient interest to make the national evening news. But these people are extraordinary items in many ways, in that it was based on supposition, for no one knew at the time what the USGA was going to propose, and will not know until today. This morning, at the US Open venue here, it is announcing its intentions and

For the manufacturers it was a master-stroke, both of content and of timing, but what should have worried the USGA more than both those things was the fact that it appeared at all. By showing such a non-news item, at such an influential time on such an influential programme, CBS signalled very clearly that the big business of television and the big business of golf-club manufacturing were going to work together to try to prevent any curb on technology.

And why would they not? CBS is comfortably the largest television producer of tournament golf in the United States, and it depends heavily on the advertising dollar of the likes of Calaway, Cobra, TaylorMade and Ping to make its profits from those programmes. If the manufacturers' businesses were to be threatened — and clubs make up a hefty chunk of the golf industry's total annual turnover of \$40 billion (\$24 billion) — then that advertising dollar

would dry up and the televising of tournaments would no longer be profitable.

And if it were not profitable, depend upon it, it would disappear — which is why that item ran on the evening news.

Rugby League Howes clears way for move to Leeds

Andy Wilson

DAVID HOWES resigned as chief executive of St Helens yesterday, clearing the way to link up with Gary Hetherington at Leeds. Howes's departure from Saints was no surprise, especially after the board of directors had appointed Eric Hughes — whom Howes had been instrumental in sacking as coach in January, 1996 — as full-time operations manager last month. Howes was not consulted, and the directors insisted that Hughes would bypass him and report directly to them.

Howes, who had two years of a five-year contract remaining, said: "I'll take a break and look at the options available to me."

There will undoubtedly be several, as the 46-year-old is

respected for his work at St Helens, who won the Super League and Challenge Cup double within 18 months of his arrival, and for previous work where he spent 20 years as the public affairs executive of the Rugby Football League. He has already been mentioned as a possible chief executive for the consortium from Swansea and Gateshead bidding for 1999 Super League franchises, but is more likely to take up an offer from Hetherington to join Leeds.

The prospect of two of the most successful administrators in the British game working alongside each other is fascinating, as neither is exactly renowned for taking a back seat. But Hetherington and Paul Caddick have ambitious plans to make Leeds the biggest rugby club in Europe.

The future for Saints looks much less bright. Howes was the driving force behind at-

tempts to spread their appeal throughout Merseyside, successfully staging a home Super League fixture at Anfield in each of the last two seasons, but there is now a danger that Saints will withdraw back into their shell and therefore fall behind wealthier clubs such as Leeds, Bradford and Wigan.

Howes's departure is also a further indication that Shaun McRae, Saints' Australian coach, will be leaving at the end of this season, probably for home, although he would be an obvious target for the possible new clubs in Cardiff, Swansea and Gateshead.

Greg Florimo, a 1994 Kangaroo tourist, has confirmed that he expects to join Wigan from North Sydney on a two-year contract next season.

Wigan are also being linked increasingly with Gary Larson, Florimo's club and international team-mate.

Athletics Youth snubbed as 100m goes to Jackson

Duncan Mackay

THE battalion of youngsters hoping to replace the retired Linford Christie as Britain's No.1 sprinter were all overlooked last night when the hurdler Colin Jackson was picked to run the 100 metres in the European Cup in St Petersburg next week.

The 31-year-old Welshman has raced the distance only once this season — clocking 10.26sec in Milan — but the selectors believed him a stronger choice to replace his former training partner, Darren Campbell, Ian Macdonald, Dwayne Chambers, Jason Gardener or Julian Golding. Jackson will also run in the 110m hurdles, the event at which he is world record-holder.

In a way the youngsters have been snubbed," said Max Jones, Britain's performance director. "They've all been running okay but no one has really made a statement. None of them has the pedigree of Colin. I'm not saying they can't produce it on the day but we know Colin will."

Christie's victory in Munich last year — his eighth in a row — helped Britain to only their second victory in the one-athlete-per-event competition. "I shall be disappointed if we don't win and very disappointed if we don't finish in the top two and qualify for the World Cup final in Johannesburg in August," Jones said.

Jackson had wanted to compete in the long jump in Russia but has been unable to find a suitable meeting to compete in. So the event goes to the teenager Nathan Morgan, one of nine athletes making their senior international debuts. Jones tipped the European junior champion to break Lynn Davies's UK record of 8.23m, which is 30 years old on June 30. "This guy has what it takes to beat British long jumping back into world class," he said.

Jackson is not the only athlete asked to double up in the June 27-28 event: Paula Radcliffe will replace the injured Kelly Holmes in the 1500m and also run the 5,000m. Roger Black will captain the men's team despite being

picked only for the 4x400m relay. Mark Richardson runs in the individual 400m.

OTHER BRITAIN: 200m: C Jackson (Bacon); 400m: D Walker (Newman and Essex); 600m: M Richardson (Wigan); 800m: A Hart (Leamington); 1000m: J Maycock (Canterbury); 1500m: J Whitham (SEC); 2000m: A Jackson; 400m: A Jackson; 600m: A Jackson; 800m: A Jackson; 1000m: A Jackson; 1500m: A Jackson; 2000m: A Jackson; 3000m: A Jackson; 4000m: A Jackson; 5000m: A Jackson; 6000m: A Jackson; 7000m: A Jackson; 8000m: A Jackson; 9000m: A Jackson; 10000m: A Jackson; 12000m: A Jackson; 14000m: A Jackson; 16000m: A Jackson; 18000m: A Jackson; 20000m: A Jackson; 22000m: A Jackson; 24000m: A Jackson; 26000m: A Jackson; 28000m: A Jackson; 30000m: A Jackson; 32000m: A Jackson; 34000m: A Jackson; 36000m: A Jackson; 38000m: A Jackson; 40000m: A Jackson; 42000m: A Jackson; 44000m: A Jackson; 46000m: A Jackson; 48000m: A Jackson; 50000m: A Jackson; 52000m: A Jackson; 54000m: A Jackson; 56000m: A Jackson; 58000m: A Jackson; 60000m: A Jackson; 62000m: A Jackson; 64000m: A Jackson; 66000m: A Jackson; 68000m: A Jackson; 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France 98

Scots show heart but life may be short

Martin Thorpe finds a lack of basic quality matched by a shortage of real ambition

SCOTLAND'S World Cup experiences down the years have been more about brave face than Braveheart and yesterday the Tartan Army faced up stoically to the loss of another opportunity to improve their relationship with this tournament.

Although victory against Norway would almost certainly have left them still needing to beat Morocco in the final Group A match next Tuesday, three points yesterday would have helped muffle the jangling of nerves as they try to become the first team from north of the border to

class players in a country of only five million people is proving increasingly difficult. The introduction of a Premier League next season, plus directives aimed at improving youth coaching, will, it is hoped, raise the standard of the game domestically. But that will take time to filter through and the best players remain those with experience gained beyond Scotland's shores. It is a recipe which has also improved Norway's players as they further their education overseas, most notably in England. There are 11 Premiership players in the Norwegian squad — even Scotland have only eight — and the fact that five began yesterday's game made it even more puzzling as to why the coach Egil Olsen insisted on a formation which would not find housing in the English Premier League.

A lone striker, a swamped midfield: it was desperate stuff. As Norway's final game is against Brazil, one would have thought they would have tried harder for an outright win against Scotland, but with such a pessimistic hand on the tiller as Olsen's the team will always be battling against the tide.

Colin Hendry easily won the battle of the blondes, possessing too much bottle for Torie Anderson, and apart from their goal Norway struggled to pose any threat to the 39-year-old Jim Leighton's blood pressure.

Yesterday's negative approach did Norway little and despite the dominance of large parts of the game, Craig Brown was left to voice the familiar Scottish lament of being "desperately disappointed" they had not won.

Scotland are to the World Cup what Norway are to the Eurovision Song Contest: enthusiastic triers but continually haunted by the threat of "Nul points". It is a crying shame. If only the team could make the same impression as their fans, a kilted militia who, in peaceful contrast to their southern British neighbours, remain perfect ambassadors abroad and meet any macho nonsense from opposing supporters with nothing more offensive than a cheeky impersonation of Marilyn Monroe's air-vent revelation in The Seven-Year Itch.

Unfortunately the bottom has too often also fallen out of their World Cup aspirations. The problem is simple, a lack of quality. Producing top-



Bending over sideways... Scotland's striker Gordon Durie outmanoeuvres Henning Berg in mid-air combat but had to settle for a non-vintage header in Bordeaux. CHRIS BACON

Proud Brown laments missed opportunity

Patrick Glenn finds Scotland's manager in the throes of despair

IT WAS confession time at the Stade Lescar today, with no one seemingly upset by the 2-2 draw with Norway. Brown, the Scotland manager, went through his period of despondency after

after Craig Burley's equaliser midway through the second half. "I was actually beginning to think we were going out of the cup," said Brown, not normally given to a sudden loss of faith. "But to do that was to reckon without the spirit of our players."

"The thing is, I felt we were the better team and that Norway only bothered us for a short spell at the start of the second half. We were desperately disappointed and unlucky not to win."

"To have had so much of the play in our first two matches, against Brazil last week and Norway today, and have only one point is not a good feeling. But hopefully we shall win the third match and give ourselves a chance of remaining in the competition."

Olsen was clearly unhappy with his team, in whose ability to reach the second round he had had unshakable confidence prior to the start of the tournament. "I'm very disappointed. We started badly and were poor for the first 20 minutes. After that and at the start of the second half we were better. But after Scotland's equaliser we lost our organisation and we were lucky not to lose the match."

"We had problems in organisation between the midfield and the back four. Too often we played with more of a back five. We wanted to defend further upfield, as we had in the first half. We were better then and I thought we should win after going 1-0 ahead."

Burley, the scorer of a precious equaliser, his second goal for Scotland, had an admission of his own. "I thought my shot was going over the bar," the Celtic midfielder said. "It was a great through-ball from David Weir and I felt the defenders were going to miss it. I saw the keeper come off his line and decided to chip him. Just for a moment I thought it was too high."

"Of course I was delighted to score as I've always thought I could if I played in midfield. I don't know what it is about playing wing-back, it just feels unnatural to be out there. But I've never complained about playing that role. I'll take what's going but everybody knows I prefer to come inside."

Group B: Italy v Cameroon

The dream team: Maldini keeps a nation guessing

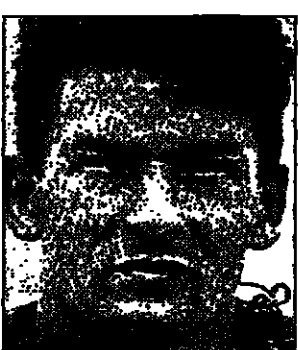
Paddy Agnew says Italy's coach may have two much of a good thing

BAGGIO or Del Piero, that is the question all Italy is asking. The actress Claudia Cardinale, prime minister Romano Prodi, French striker Just Fontaine, Brazilian legend Pele and just about everyone else have all put the case for playing the two greatest contemporary Italians side by side in this evening's match with Cameroon in Montpellier.

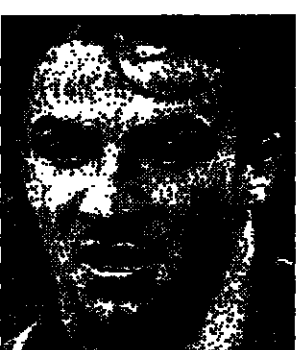
They can put the case but will the coach Cesare Maldini listen? Probably not. Before Italy's 2-2 draw with Chile it was thought that Roberto Baggio's fine form might eventually prove an embarrassment of riches for Maldini when Alessandro Del Piero recovered from injury. And indeed Baggio saved the game with a 86th-minute penalty and established his claim to a permanent place.

So what does Maldini do now? Has he considered playing the two together and, if so, how? "I've been asking myself that question for two months, but as for how exactly I can get them to play together, what other measures we need to take, who else will play, well, that is my business," he said at the Italian camp in Senlis, north of Paris.

Not surprisingly, Maldini has not relished the unasked-for advice. When told of the prime minister's opinion he promptly suggested that the head of government should stick to his preferred sport, cycling. When told that all Italy was clamouring for the two to play together in the national side for the first time he said that he had to choose "what is best for the team and not what suits popular sentiment".



Baggio... penalty saviour



Del Piero... fit again

Maldini's reluctance to pair Baggio and Del Piero is understandable. On the only previous occasion he abandoned his 3-3-2 formation to play a three-man attack of Christian Vieri, Gianfranco Zola and Filippo Inzaghi the experiment backfired in that 0-0 qualifying draw with England last October.

The indications are that Baggio will again start alongside Vieri, leaving Del Piero to come on in the second half. Maldini can always claim that Del Piero is not quite ready for 90 minutes after injuring his thigh for Juventus against Real Madrid in the Champions Cup final.

This is not to say that the Italy coach denies his side are short on invention. To remedy that he may call in the Internazionale winger Francesco Moriero in place of Angelo Di Livio. And Moriero in turn could be the player to go off when Del Piero comes on.

Baggio said of Del Piero: "We get on well and respect each other. We're just two

players in a group that hopes to do well." Some two players. Curiously the mood in the camp is positive, with no one seemingly upset by the 2-2 draw with Chile. That mood may be helped by the fact the Italian press has decided on a stay of execution for Maldini.

The coach has only one other worry: the sweeper Alessandro Costacurta is still recovering from a knock sustained against Chile. Giuseppe Bergomi is on standby to win his 79th cap. Significantly, he would provide a link between this team and the last, which drew 1-1 with Cameroon in the first round in 1982.

The 34-year-old Bergomi recalls that on that occasion, when he was on the bench, Italian heads were down in the dressing-room afterwards while next door the Cameroon players were celebrating as if they had won.

Tonight, Cameroon expectations are likely to be higher partly because they too drew their opening game, 1-1 with Austria, but also because times have changed. African football has progressed and the current team are a great deal more organised.

That, at least, is the opinion of Cameroon's experienced Sampdoria striker Francois Omam-Biyik. Capped 76 times, the 33-year-old Biyik credits the team's recently appointed coach Claude Le Roy with having imposed order and professionalism.

Chile v Austria

Salas the space ace aims to send Austria into orbit

Michael Walker in St Etienne runs the rule over Chile's elusive and deadly striker

WITH a national anthem that begins, "Chile, your sky is a pure blue, pure breezes blow across you, and your field embroidered with flowers is a happy copy of Eden", perhaps the world should have been forewarned of the blossoming nature of Chilean football.

However, even after their memorable display at Wembley in February, it was still a warming surprise to watch Chile's response to falling behind early to Italy in Bordeaux last Thursday.

In a beguiling opening week, Chile's discipline, skill and enthusiasm for the positive still stood out. It should make Austria, their opponents here this afternoon, at the Stade Geoffroy-Guichard, tread carefully. However, Austria's midfielder Helmo Pfeifferberger says his side have no option but to "stick our necks out if we want to stand any chance".

If Austria, who scraped a point against Cameroon thanks to Toni Polster's last-minute equaliser, do attack freely, all the ingredients will be in place for a high-scoring game; and there is little doubt who would stand to benefit most from that: Marcelo Salas.

Of all the fine individual performances of the past seven days few would disagree that Salas's against Italy was the most rounded. Even had he not pounced that split-second before everyone else to stab in the equaliser in first-half injury-time and then produced a pristine header to put Chile in front just after the interval, his contribution

would still have had everyone in the red half of Manchester nodding in acknowledgement that Alex Ferguson had at least been chasing the right player even if he failed to capture him.

Whether receiving the ball to feet, thigh or chest, and inevitably with an opponent harassing him from behind, Salas's control was immaculate. Italians, who tend to value keeping possession, must have been highly impressed. It is their good fortune that they will be seeing Salas next season in Lazio's light blue rather than Manchester United's red.

There has been no official explanation from Old Trafford as to why that is the case, but it seems unlikely that United's pic board were willing to match the £3 million tax-free signing-on fee Lazio are said to have paid Salas.

Salas, who is reluctant to talk to the media, offered no insight into what occurred, saying at the time only that "I'm very proud that a club like Manchester United are interested in me".

Thankfully he was rather more revealing on the art of being a striker. "I think that one of my virtues is my conception of space; you need that in the penalty area. I have an intuition for where the ball is going to be and the speed to get there before the defender. This ability has helped me score many goals."

He is not wrong there. Salas has hit more than 150 in the past three seasons — all championship-winning ones, first with Universidad de Chile and then for River Plate



Salas galore... the celebrations begin for the prolific Salas and Zamorano. THOMAS KENZLE

in Argentina — and, as could be seen against Italy, quite a few have been headers even if he lacks inches.

"It's not so much a question of height, more a matter of placement," Salas has said. "You have to take up good positions, time your run and time the exact moment of your jump." One comparison that pleased him was when he was likened to Gary Lineker in the area. "Lineker was an extraordinary player, a complete attacker who was great in the air and finished well with both feet."

Yesterday evening Chile's manager Nelson Acosta was similarly pleased — "We are

the nicest team in France" he said, beaming — mainly because Salas has shaken off a minor groin injury and will definitely start today.

That means the "Za-Se" partnership of Ivan Zamorano and Salas will test Austria. Omnibusly for Herbert Prohaska's team, Salas said: "My combination with Zamorano is not yet perfect. We know each other well but we have not played regularly enough together. We will get stronger and stronger after each match."

British bookmakers appear to share that analysis. Before Chile came to Wembley and Salas accounted for England with a brilliant opening goal and a penalty which he himself had won, he was 100-1 to be the World Cup's top scorer before Chile played Italy he was down to 50-1; this morning you will find him at 7-1 with William Hill alongside Alan Shearer.

Tomorrow morning, he could be even shorter odds. If so, it would mean that Chile had won their first match in the finals since 1932 when they were the hosts. Judging by the title of the booklet handed out by the Chilean Football Federation yesterday, they want it badly: its title is Un grito de corazon, "a scream from the heart".

صباحنا من الامم

Advertisement for the 1998 FIFA World Cup, featuring a large image of a football player and text promoting the tournament. The text includes "Road to the final" and "SECOND ROUND", "QUARTER FINALS", "SEMI FINALS", and "FINAL".

Road to the final



A	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Brazil	3	2	0	0	5	1	6
France	2	2	0	0	3	3	6
Scotland	2	0	1	1	2	3	1
Morocco	2	0	1	1	2	3	1
Chile	1	0	1	1	1	1	1
Cameroon	1	0	1	1	1	1	1
Italy	1	0	1	1	1	1	1
Paraguay	1	0	1	1	1	1	1
Spain	1	0	1	1	1	1	1
Belgium	1	0	1	1	1	1	1
South Korea	1	0	1	1	1	1	1
Japan	1	0	1	1	1	1	1
Colombia	1	0	1	1	1	1	1
Costa Rica	1	0	1	1	1	1	1
Yugoslavia	1	0	1	1	1	1	1
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Iran	1	0	1	1	1	1	1
Korea	1	0	1	1	1	1	1
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Brunei	1	0	1	1	1	1	1
Timor	1	0	1	1	1	1	1
East Timor	1	0	1	1	1	1	1
North Korea	1	0	1	1	1	1	1
South Korea	1	0	1	1	1	1	1
Japan	1	0	1	1	1	1	1
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France	3	2	0	0	5	1	6
Denmark	2	2	0	0	3	3	6
S. Arabia	2	0	1	1	2	3	1
S. Africa	2	0	1	1	2	3	1
S. Korea	2	0	1	1	2	3	1
Japan	2	0	1	1	2	3	1
Colombia	2	0	1	1	2	3	1
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Malaysia	2	0	1	1	2	3	1
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Timor	2	0	1	1	2	3	1
East Timor	2	0	1	1	2	3	1

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France	3	2	0	0	5	1	6
Denmark	2	2	0	0	3	3	6
S. Arabia	2	0	1	1	2	3	1
S. Africa	2	0	1	1	2	3	1
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Singapore	2	0	1	1	2	3	1
Malaysia	2	0	1	1	2	3	1
Brunei	2	0	1	1	2	3	1
Timor	2	0	1	1	2	3	1
East Timor	2	0	1	1	2	3	1

E	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
France	3	2	0	0	5	1	6
Denmark	2	2	0	0	3	3	6
S. Arabia	2	0	1	1	2	3	1
S. Africa	2	0	1	1	2	3	1
S. Korea	2	0	1	1	2	3	1
Japan	2	0	1	1	2	3	1
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Iran	2	0	1	1	2	3	1
Korea	2	0	1	1	2	3	1
China	2	0	1	1	2	3	1
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Vietnam	2	0	1	1	2	3	1
Laos	2	0	1	1	2	3	1
Myanmar	2	0	1	1	2	3	1
Philippines	2	0	1	1	2	3	1
Singapore	2	0	1	1	2	3	1
Malaysia	2	0	1	1	2	3	1
Brunei	2	0	1	1	2	3	1
Timor	2	0	1	1	2	3	1
East Timor	2	0	1	1	2	3	1

F	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
France	3	2	0	0	5	1	6
Denmark	2	2	0	0	3	3	6
S. Arabia	2	0	1	1	2	3	1
S. Africa	2	0	1	1	2	3	1
S. Korea	2	0	1	1	2	3	1
Japan	2	0	1	1	2	3	1
Colombia	2	0	1	1	2	3	1
Costa Rica	2	0	1	1	2	3	1
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Denmark	2	0	1	1	2	3	1
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Saudi Arabia	2	0	1	1	2	3	1
Iran	2	0	1	1	2	3	1
Korea	2	0	1	1	2	3	1
China	2	0	1	1	2	3	1
Thailand	2	0	1	1	2	3	1
Vietnam	2	0	1	1	2	3	1
Laos	2	0	1	1	2	3	1
Myanmar	2	0	1	1	2	3	1
Philippines	2	0	1	1	2	3	1
Singapore	2	0	1	1	2	3	1
Malaysia	2	0	1	1	2	3	1
Brunei	2	0	1	1	2	3	1
Timor	2	0	1	1	2	3	1
East Timor	2	0	1	1	2	3	1

G	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
France	3	2	0	0	5	1	6
Denmark	2	2	0	0	3	3	6
S. Arabia	2	0	1	1	2	3	1
S. Africa	2	0	1	1	2	3	1
S. Korea	2	0	1	1	2	3	1
Japan	2	0	1	1	2	3	1
Colombia	2	0	1	1	2	3	1
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Vietnam	2	0	1	1	2	3	1
Laos	2	0	1	1	2	3	1
Myanmar	2	0	1	1	2	3	1
Philippines	2	0	1	1	2	3	1
Singapore	2	0	1	1	2	3	1
Malaysia	2	0	1	1	2	3	1
Brunei	2	0	1	1	2	3	1
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Sri Lanka 2015 - Sri Lanka (20m)	
Belgium	_____
Mexico	_____
BBC	

Sri Lanka 2015 - Sri Lanka (20m)	
Holland	_____
South Korea	_____
ITV	

Tanzania 2015 - Sri Lanka (20m)	
Holland	_____
Mexico	_____
BBC	

Tanzania 2015 - Sri Lanka (20m)	
Belgium	_____
South Korea	_____
BBC	



France 98

Morocco take on Brazil
World Cup round-up 15
The genius of Marcello Salas
The great Italian defender
Baggio or Del Piero? 14

The Guardian Sport

Wednesday June 17 1998 www.football.guardian.co.uk/worldcup

France 98



The acceptable face of Scotland... Craig Burley celebrates after scoring the equaliser against Norway with a delicate lob, right, after running on to David Weir's through-ball. PHOTOGRAPHS: MARK THOMPSON AND DOUG PENSINGER



Tense 1-1 draw with Norway means Scots hopes rest on final victory

Burley keeps Scots alive

Patrick Glenn in Bordeaux on an astute switch that saved the day for Craig Brown

SCOTLAND kept at least one foot in the World Cup on an afternoon when Norway threatened for some time to eject them bodily.

Craig Burley was the Young Lochinvar of the piece, charging to the rescue only three minutes after the tactical switch by Craig Brown which allowed the Celtic midfielder to leave the wing-back position he hates and move at last into his favourite role.

At the time, a Norwegian side packed with human levathans seemed likely to protect the lead they had snatched in the opening minute of the second half through Havard Flo, the Werder Bremen midfielder.

But Burley's intervention, lobbing the goalkeeper Frode Grodas from 15 yards in the 88th minute after running powerfully to meet a long ball from the 60th-minute substitute, Hearts' David Weir, not only restored a balance the Scots thoroughly deserved but encouraged them into an aggressive finish which might

have produced a winner. The introduction of Weir for Collin Calderwood and Jackie McNamara's dislodging of Darren Jackson when the Scots had lost impetus proved astute. The Hearts player does more with the ball and McNamara made some damaging runs down the right.

But Brown's side were sorely in need of an equaliser at that precise moment, as they had been on top of the Norwegians for lengthy periods without showing a profit and there were clear signs of discouragement in the ranks.

Scotland, during those spells of neat passing and confident surging, demonstrated that possession may be nine parts of the law but that the final tenth was all the Norwegians required to establish an advantage that would have eliminated Brown's team even before the final group match.

The manager's oft-voiced hope that his team would score at least once when they had the ascendancy might have been fulfilled as early as the 17th minute had the Hungarian referee agreed with the

view of many that the Scots should have had a penalty.

Gordon Durie took possession on the right edge of the area and appeared to move just inside the border as he teased Stig Bjornebye into the tackle.

That the Liverpool defender took the striker illegally was not an issue, but Mr Wagner awarded a free-kick just outside the box.

A goal at that point was the least Scotland merited, as they had demonstrated a coherence in midfield and quickness in

attack that had bothered the tall, sometimes lumbering Norwegians.

The Scots' most formidable weapon was always likely to be raw ambition to reach the second round for the first time but it was underpinned by a quality of passing and extraordinary composure during the first 25 minutes which clearly shocked the opposition.

Egil Olsen, the Norwegian coach, is alleged to have called Brown's side "the weakest in the group" but his own team during the first half looked pe-

destrian and unimaginative.

They have become notorious for relying on their advantage in height and bulk and they have secured some extraordinary results in recent years. But their style for much of this game fitted Johnny Giles's description of it as "cave-man football".

Long before the Durie "penalty" incident — indeed, after only four minutes — Christian Dailly should have put the ball behind Grodas when he came in from the left to meet a precise centre from John Collins on the right. The

Derby defender, reprising his role at left wing-back after an uncomfortable night against Brazil last week, had a clear header which he sent narrowly wide of the far post.

Durie himself looped a header from Gallacher's high cross from the left close to Grodas's right-hand post but, with those threats failing to inflict any damage, the Scots' superiority tailed off markedly.

Norway did not suddenly become exhilarating but there seemed to be more naked menace whenever they moved forward.

Scotland regained their composure in the few minutes before half-time, however, and

could not have been expected to fall behind within 30 seconds of the restart.

That loss of concentration which had caused some alarm earlier made a reappearance but this time it cost them dear.

Vidar Riseth gathered the ball on the left and lured Calderwood to him before skipping away into clear space. From there he delivered the perfect cross and Flo, who had not been picked up by Dailly, had the simplest of headers from six yards.

Now Morocco have to be beaten in St Etienne next Tuesday night if Scotland are to have a hope of remaining in the tournament. They will be without Jackson, whose second-half caution was his second of the competition.

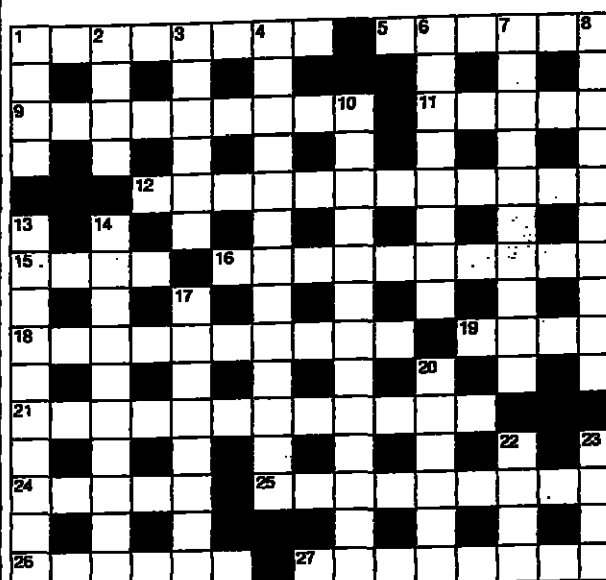
The Scots will confront the Moroccans with their usual self-assurance and, with this first point on the board, there is sound reason to be optimistic. It is their misfortune, however, that the result of the Brazil v Norway showdown, to be played simultaneously, could sabotage their ambition.

SUBSTITUTIONS Scotland: Weir for Calderwood, 60min; McNamara for Jackson, 62; Riseth for Olsen, 72; Hallio for Berg, 82. Norway: Bjornebye for Olsen, 62; Riseth for Olsen, 72; Hallio for Berg, 82. Referee: Roderic Berg (Netherlands). Venue: Hurgany.

Scotland				
Calderwood	Henry	Boyd		
Burley	Lambert	Collins	Jackson	Dailly
Gallacher		Durie		
Riseth	Solbakken	Rekdal	Strand	H Flo
Johnsen	Eggen	Bjornebye	Berg	
Norway				
		Grodas		

Guardian Crossword No 21,303

Set by Plodge

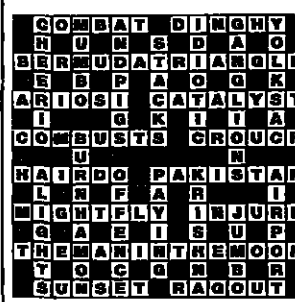


Across

- 1,20 Letter saying "Thanks for the pudding" (5,3,6)
- 5 Dish out Latin spiel (6)
- 9 Ashamed to have given King Edward the bird? (5)
- 11 Sometimes gas about poetry standards (5)
- 12 Rogue desired to follow about old leg... thought better of it (12)
- 15 Bugs overran the Italian church (4)
- 16 Swearing to ruin a job reunion (10)
- 18 Compensate noble queen, dot (10)
- 19 The monster's so overcome (4)
- 21 Flashy or simple, organised tours taken here in France (12)
- 24 Mr. Nesbitt returned thanks for capital (5)
- 25 Toff entertains one before others, all privates (9)
- 26 Not keen on a piece of poetry? (6)
- 27 Little Miss Nightingale, free to fly shortly with embroidery (8)

Down

- 1 See 23
- 2 Urges drugs taking? Horse, they say (4)



CROSSWORD SOLUTION 21,302

- 3 Stops working the Spanish oil (9)
- 4 Bring no turn of cast after the 23's in play (8,3,7)
- 6 Layabout rotter, last scion of country folk (8)
- 7 The two Henrys, drunks, got one the same (5,5)
- 8 No blame's attached to resemblances with side in push places? (10)
- 10 Abnormal lady's failure to embrace the party (13)
- 13 Dark 23, the captive deliverer (5,5)
- 14 Possible to have quail (brace) cooked? (10)
- 17 Representations to keep bar laws (8)
- 20 See 1 across
- 22 The lad's away but Laurie's home (4)
- 23, 1 down The president's wife spotted grub (8)

Solution tomorrow

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	CHARGE FOR CREDIT.....£2,268.13
	TOTAL AMOUNT PAYABLE.....£19,703.40

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Thursday June 18 1998

Cricket as it happens

www.cricket98.co.uk

Trident

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Mr Law

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